"Donny Cates is symbiote royalty."
– Comic Watch
VENOM
DONNY CATES
IBAN COELLO
JUAN GEDEON
LUKE ROSS
RYAN STEGMAN
VENOM BEYOND
MARVEL

VENOM
VENOM BEYOND

DISGRACED REPORTER EDDIE BROCK STUMBLED UPON AN AGGRESSIVE ALIEN ORGANISM CALLED A SYMBIOTE DURING ONE OF THE LOWEST POINTS OF HIS LIFE. THE TWO WERE JOINED AND USED THEIR COMBINED LUST FOR VIOLENCE TO MAKE THEIR CITY SAFER AS THE LETHAL PROTECTOR VENOM.

RECENTLY EDDIE BROCK FOUND HIMSELF ON THE ISLAND OF BONES IN A DEADLY BATTLE WITH THE CARNAGE SYMBIOTE. WITH THE HELP OF HIS SON, DYLAN, EDDIE AND THE VENOM SYMBIOTE WERE REUNITED AND ABLE TO RID THEMSELVES OF THE CARNAGE SYMBIOTE FOR GOOD.

EVENTUALLY EDDIE RETURNED TO NEW YORK AND CONFESSED TO THE AVENGERS HIS KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE IMPENDING THREAT OF KNULL.

WHILE EVERYONE IS ON HIGH ALERT IN PREPARATION FOR KNULL, EDDIE PLANS TO FIND ANSWERS ABOUT DYLAN'S POWERS...

COLLECTION EDITOR JENNIFER GRÜNWALD • ASSISTANT EDITOR DANIEL KIRCHHOFFER
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BOOK DESIGNERS SALENA MAHINA WITH JAY BOWEN
DIGITAL MANAGER/PRODUCTION TIM SMITH 3 • DIGITAL PRODUCTION MEGHAN O'LEARY
SVP PRINT, SALES & MARKETING DAVID GABRIEL • EDITOR IN CHIEF C.B. CEBULSKI

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# VENOM

## VENOM BEYOND

DONNY CATES

JUAN GEDEON (#26-28)
WITH IBAN COELLO (#26)
& LUKE ROSS (#29-30)

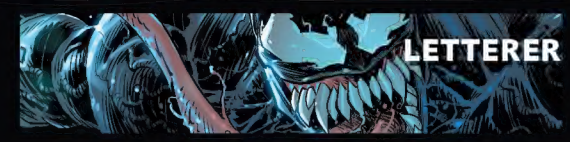
JESUS ABURTOV

RYAN STEGMAN, JP MAYER & FRANK MARTIN (#26-27, #29-30) AND GEOFF SHAW & FRANK MARTIN (#28)

## FREE COMIC BOOK DAY 2020: SPIDER-MAN/VENOM

DONNY CATES & RYAN STEGMAN
JP MAYER
FRANK MARTIN

RYAN STEGMAN, JP MAYER & FRANK MARTIN




VC'S CLAYTON COWLES

DANNY KHAZEM
ASSISTANT EDITOR

DEVIN LEWIS
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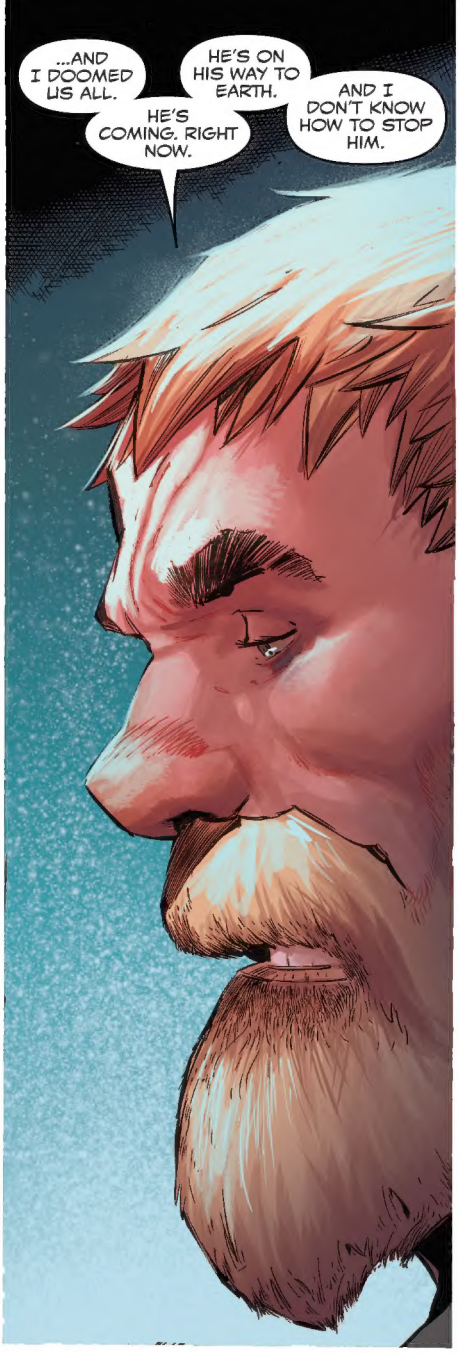
FREE COMIC BOOK DAY 2020: SPIDER-MAN/VENOM

"EVERYTHING...
"EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED SO FAR. ALL THE PAIN. ALL THE HORROR.
"ALL THE DARKNESS...
"IT'S ALL BEEN LEADING TO THIS.
"TO HIM.
"KNULL.
"HE WAS HERE BEFORE US. BEFORE THE BIRTH OF LIGHT. BEFORE EVERYTHING.
"HE CREATED THE SYMBIOTES USING THE LIVING ABYSS OF HIS KINGDOM.
"BILLIONS OF YEARS AGO THEY ROSE UP AGAINST HIM.
"IMPRISONED HIM INSIDE OF A CAGE.
"AND NOW...
"...NOW HE'S AWAKE.
"CLETUS KASADY--CARNAGE--HE GAVE ME A CHOICE BETWEEN SAVING MY SON OR UNLEASHING KNULL ON THE UNIVERSE...
"I CHOSE LIFE.
"I CHOSE MY SON..."


...AND I DOOMED US ALL.
HE'S COMING. RIGHT NOW.
HE'S ON HIS WAY TO EARTH.
AND I DON'T KNOW HOW TO STOP HIM.

DEAR GOD.
THE HELL, EDDIE? WHY DID YOU--
WHEN DID YOU GET INVOLVED IN ELDER GODS? I MEAN, FIRST BRUCE AND NOW--
THIS IS SO UNBELIEVABLY NEGLIGENT THAT I--
TONY, STOP. THIS IS--

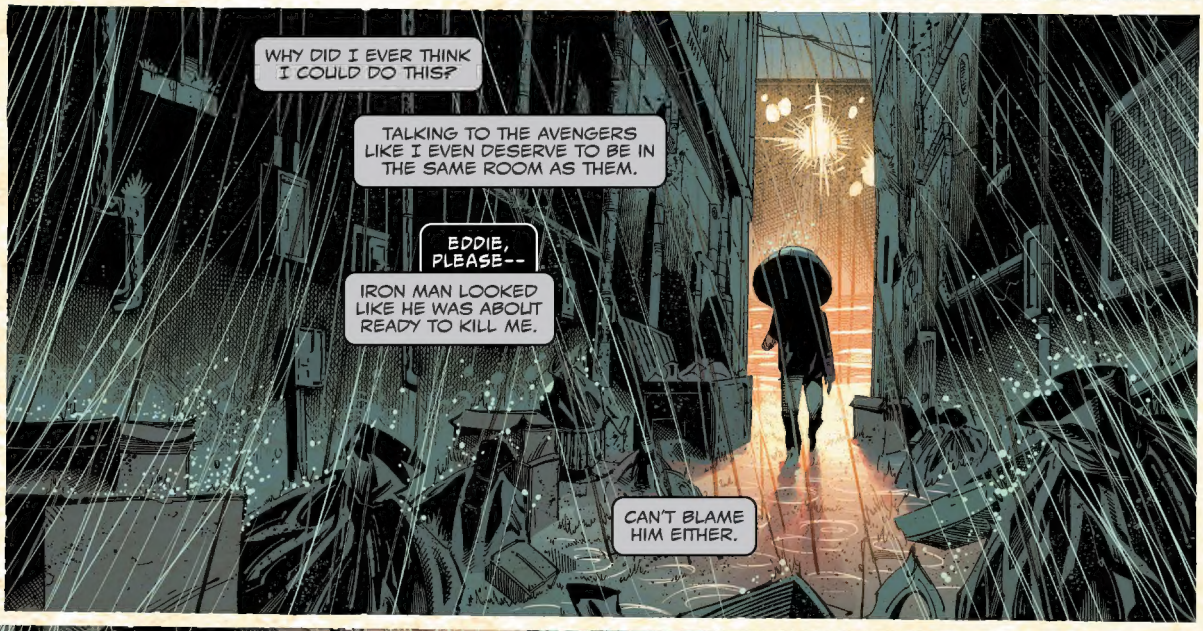
NO!
YOU MADE CONTACT WITH AN ENTITY THAT CAN GO TOE-TO-TOE WITH A CELESTIAL AND AT NO TIME DID YOU THINK YOU SHOULD MAYBE COME TO US?! TO SOMEONE? WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU THINKING, BROCK? WE SHOULD--

HEY! THAT'S ENOUGH, TONY.
IF WHAT EDDIE IS TELLING US IS TRUE, WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO POINT ANY FINGERS.
WE DON'T EVEN KNOW IF WE HAVE ANY TIME AT ALL, CAP. HE COULD BE HERE TOMORROW FOR ALL WE KNOW.

I'LL BE ABLE TO SENSE HIM.
WE WILL. MY OTHER--MY SYMBIOTE--IT'S CONNECTED TO HIS HIVE MIND. WE'LL KNOW WHEN HE'S CLOSE.
I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH TIME IT'LL GIVE US BUT--
OH GREAT! WE'LL JUST RELY ON SPIDER-MAN'S OLD CLOTHES TO SEND UP A DISTRESS SIGNAL AND THEN WE'LL--
TONY, ENOUGH!
EDDIE. GO HOME. GET SOME REST. WE'LL GET A GAME PLAN TOGETHER.
IT'LL...
IT'LL BE OKAY.
BRAVO. NICE PERFORMANCE.
NOW. DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE THAT, CAP?
IS EVERYTHING GOING TO BE OKAY?

THEY'RE RIGHT TO BE MAD.
WE WALK IN THERE TALKING ABOUT WORLD-ENDING ELDER GODS THAT WE UNLEASHED ON THE WORLD...
WHAT DID WE THINK WAS GOING TO HAPPEN?

WE'RE LUCKY THEY DIDN'T LOCK US UP. STUPID. SO--
EDDIE. YOU MUST--
PLEASE. I'M NOT IN THE MOOD FOR A PEP TALK.


WHY DID I EVER THINK I COULD DO THIS?
TALKING TO THE AVENGERS LIKE I EVEN DESERVE TO BE IN THE SAME ROOM AS THEM.
EDDIE, PLEASE--
IRON MAN LOOKED LIKE HE WAS ABOUT READY TO KILL ME.
CAN'T BLAME HIM EITHER.

EVERYWHERE I GO, DEATH AND DARKNESS FOLLOWS ME. I DON'T DESERVE--
EDDIE! BEHIND YOU!
WH-WHAT?
EDDIE! GET--

--DOWN!
AGH!!!
ZZAKK
EDDIE, THREE OF YOUR RIBS ARE CRACKED. STAY DOWN WHILE I HEAL YOU. I WILL PROTECT YOU FROM--
UNF, YEAH...I'M...FINE. I CAN...
WAIT. IRON MAN?
WAIT, PLEASE. TONY, I KNOW YOU'RE MAD AT ME BUT--
OH, I'M A LITTLE MORE THAN MAD, BROCK.
BUT I'M NOT IRON MAN.

THE NAME'S
VIRUS.
BUT DON'T WORRY. YOU WON'T HAVE TO REMEMBER IT FOR LONG...

AGHHH!!!
SONIC CANNON! RIPPING MY OTHER AWAY!
NO!
HAVE TO GET TO IT BEFORE IT CAN--
LOOK ALIVE, BROCK!
RIB CAGE SHATTERS.
BONE FRAGMENTS LIKE GLASS IN MY LUNGS.
AGHH!
KRAK
EDDIE! STAY STILL!
TOO MUCH BLOOD IN MY THROAT. CAN'T BREATHE!
C-CA-CAN'T BRE-BREA-BREATHE...

HE'S CIRCLING AROUND! YOU HAVE TO RUN!
GET OUT OF HERE. I CAN'T FIGHT HIM.
IT'S A SHAME YOU'LL NEVER KNOW WHY I KILLED YOU, BROCK!
HAVE-- TO-- GU-GO--
EDDIE, SHUT UP!
FILLING YOUR LUNGS. MAKING NEW RIB CAGE, BUT MUST BE QUIET!
WE DO NOT RUN! NOT FROM THIS!
ALMOST DONE! STAND UP, EDDIE!
YOU TOOK SOMETHING FROM ME. TOOK EVERYTHING!
AND TODAY I WILL--
NOW!
WE DO NOT KNOW YOU.
CRUNCH
AND WE DO NOT CARE.
YOU SAY WE HAVE HURT YOU. TAKEN SOMETHING FROM YOU.
CONSIDER KEEPING YOUR LIFE OUR APOLOGY.
ZZKKT

WE HAVE BIGGER THINGS TO WORRY ABOUT...
...THAN SOME LUNATIC IN A METAL SUIT!
CRUNCH
NO! NO, YOU IDIOT, YOU'VE RUINED IT!
THAT WAS THE INTENTION, YES...
NOW RUN AWAY BEFORE--
THIS ISN'T OVER.
TELL DYLAN I SAID HELLO.
WHAT?! HE KNOWS DYLAN! WHO THE HELL IS--AGH!!!
SONIC SCRAMBLER! CAN'T-- MOVE...
RAGHH!
FOOM

GET UP, BROCK!
MOVE BEFORE HE--
WAIT. THAT NOISE... THAT'S...
...A GOBLIN GLIDER.
OSBORN? EDDIE, DO YOU THINK...
NO...NO, THE GOBLIN WOULDN'T HIDE HIMSELF LIKE THAT...
THEN WHO? THAT SUIT WAS MODIFIED SPECIFICALLY TO KILL MY KIND...
EDDIE... WHO IS TRYING TO KILL US?
I...
...I DON'T KNOW.

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
H-HELP!
SOMEBODY, PLEASE! HELP ME! HELP--
AGH!

HEY, CALM DOWN. WHAT'S GOING ON?
OH, THANK GOD. YOU GOTTA HELP ME, MAN! SOMETHING'S AFTER ME! SOME KINDA MONSTER CHASING ME!
WHAT? WHAT'S CHASING YOU?
THAT--THAT THING!
OH...
...IS THAT ALL?
LET ME DEAL WITH THAT.
WH-WHAT THE HELL, MAN?! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

I GOT TIRED OF RUNNING. THOUGHT I'D LET MY PARTNER BRING YOU TO ME INSTEAD.
YOU'RE A HARD MAN TO TRACK DOWN, YOU KNOW THAT?
YOU HAVE INFORMATION THAT WE NEED. SO WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A LITTLE CONVERSATION.
AND KNOW THIS--
YOU CAN LIE TO US.
OR YOU CAN LIVE.
BUT YOU CANNOT DO BOTH.

LATER...
OKAY, I GOT THE LOCATION MAPPED INTO THE GPS. YOU READY?
UM...
I DON'T KNOW. IT JUST SEEMS...
DO WE HAVE TO?
SON, WE TALKED ABOUT THIS.
WE HAVE TO FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON WITH YOU.
I KNOW, IT'S JUST...
HEY...
I'M NOT GOING TO LET ANYTHING BAD HAPPEN TO YOU.
I PROMISED YOU. BUT YOUR CONNECTION TO THE SYMBIOTE HIVE... THESE NIGHTMARES ABOUT KNULL...
WE HAVE TO FIGURE THIS OUT. BEFORE--
KNULL GETS HERE. I KNOW, BUT--
DYLAN. NO "BUTS." I'M SORRY, BUT I'M YOUR FATHER, AND THIS IS WHAT WE'RE DOING.
BUT--
DYLAN!

YOU AREN'T LISTENING TO ME!
NO, I AM. YOU JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND.
DAD! STOP! PLEASE, I'M NOT SAYING--
OKAY. THAT'S ENOUGH.
LISTEN TO ME...
I'M SCARED, OKAY, BUD?
I KNOW...I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO TELL YOU THAT, BUT...I AM. I'M JUST--
(DO YOU NEED A THICKER JACKET? ARE YOU COLD?)
I'M OKAY.
I KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO HAVE THIS...THIS THING IN YOUR HEAD. I DO.
IT'S NOT FUN. AND I DON'T...
I DON'T WANT THIS FOR YOU.
I WANT... EVERYTHING TO BE BETTER FOR YOU THAN IT WAS FOR ME.
SO...LET'S JUST GO DO THIS AND GET IT OVER WITH. OKAY?
YES. OKAY. FINE. DAD, I'M NOT SCARED OF GOING TO MEET THIS GUY... THAT'S FINE.
THEN... WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? WHAT ARE YOU SCARED OF?
THIS!
OH. HAHA.
THAT? DON'T WORRY, BUD...

"...I GOT YOU."

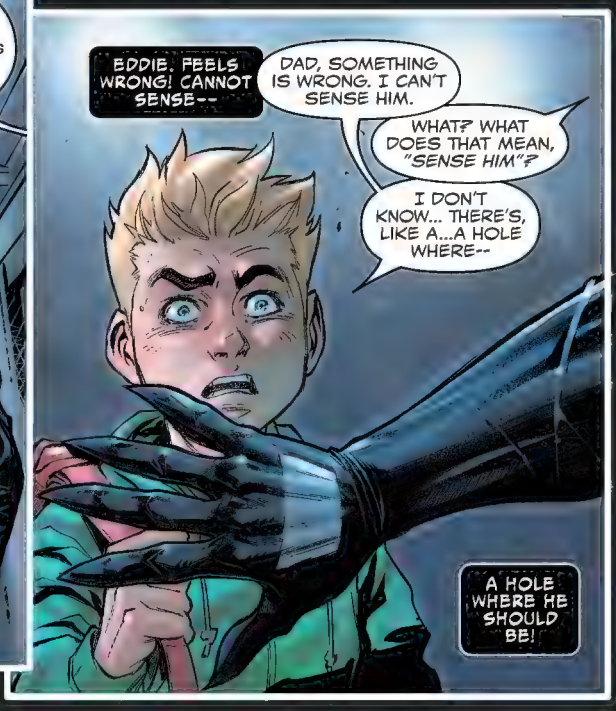
NOW, NOW...
...WHERE ARE YOU OFF TO, EDDIE?

OKAY... THIS SHOULD BE IT...
REALLY? IT'S JUST SOME... WAREHOUSE...
ALWAYS IS, KIDDO. REMEMBER OUR OLD ONE? HIDDEN ROOMS FILLED WITH WEAPONS? A MACHINE THAT COULD PERFORM SPINAL SURGERY AND REMOVE SYMBIOTE PIECES WRAPPED AROUND PEOPLE'S DNA?
LOTS OF CRAZY THINGS CAN BE HIDDEN IN WAREHOUSES...
WATCH THIS.
KNOCK-KNOCK
HEY!
COME ON. I KNOW YOU PROBABLY HAVE A MILLION SENSORS AND CAMERAS AIMED AT ME RIGHT NOW.
HE DOES.
THOUGHT SO. SO WHY DON'T YOU JUST GET IT OVER WITH AND DO THE BIG SUPER VILLAIN THING SO WE CAN MOVE ON, OKAY?
I SWEAR IT'S NOT JUST SOME RANDOM WAREHOUSE.
I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING.

-SIGH-
DAMMIT. FINE. STEP AWAY, SON.
RAGGGGH!!!
WOOSH
AGH!
YOU-- HEHEHE--YOU OKAY?
YES, SON. I'M FINE.
AND YOU... YOU KNOW, YOU COULD HAVE JUST OPENED THE DOORS WHEN I KNOCKED...
Mmm? Oh. Yes, sorry, Edward.

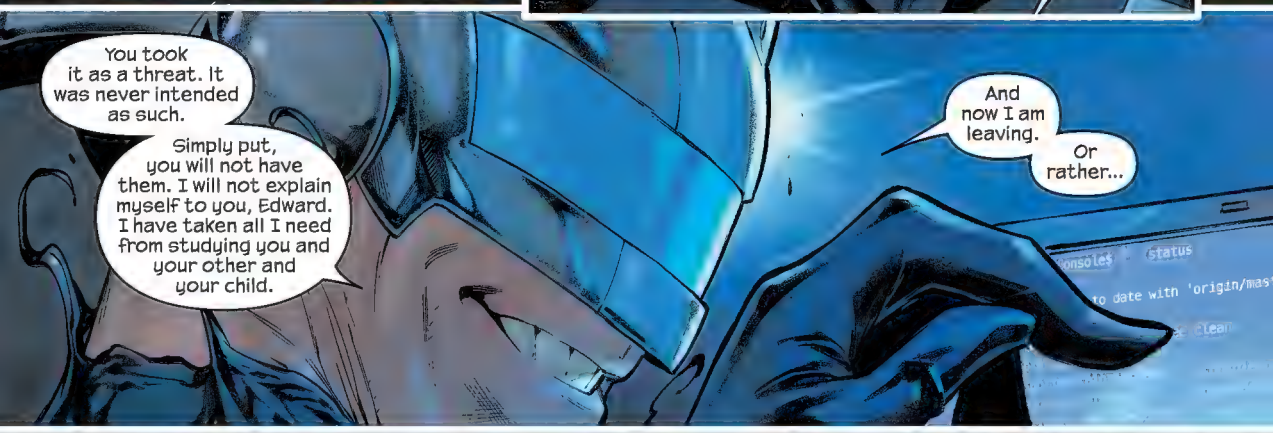
I had headphones on.
Also, you could have just called.
YOU CHANGED YOUR NUMBER.

WHAT IS ALL OF THIS? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
It's a gate. A chronal gateway to other universes. It tracks a being's specific DNA pattern and directs them towards... Well, I wouldn't want to waste your time trying to explain it.
SOMETHING IS NOT RIGHT, EDDIE.


EDDIE. FEELS WRONG! CANNOT SENSE--
DAD, SOMETHING IS WRONG. I CAN'T SENSE HIM.
WHAT? WHAT DOES THAT MEAN, "SENSE HIM"?
I DON'T KNOW... THERE'S, LIKE A...A HOLE WHERE--
A HOLE WHERE HE SHOULD BE!

Ah. So he knows. That's good.
He is fascinating. Dylan. His ability to sense the others. What he has become.
I hope that will help you when Knull arrives. I truly do.
That there is something left of this world when all is said and done.

W-WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
Once upon a time, I told you that you would not like the answers you seek about my plans.


You took it as a threat. It was never intended as such.
Simply put, you will not have them. I will not explain myself to you, Edward. I have taken all I need from studying you and your other and your child.
And now I am leaving.
Or rather...

...we are.
EDDIE! HE'S WEARING A--
I SEE IT, DAMMIT! CALM DOWN!
HAVE TO STOP IT! CAN'T FEEL IT! CAN'T SENSE IT! CAN'T LET IT HURT ANYONE LIKE--
STOP! JUST--
RAAGGHH!
Ah, yes. I see we are at this part.
Before we begin, you should know--your other and the animal cannot sense cannot sense my symbiote because it comes *from my original universe.* And on my world, it was...a bit different.
It was *made in a lab.* Which makes it *synthetic. Artificial.*
Which means it can be improved.
BOOM

UGH!
Yes, yes. Go back to him. I have no fight with you.
Go on, then.
SORRY, BODDIE. DIDN'T KNOW. HAD TO--
IT'S FINE. I GET IT. JUST... STAY WITH ME, OKAY?
DAD?
WE'RE OKAY.
OKAY. LISTEN. I SINCERELY DON'T CARE WHERE YOU'RE GOING OR WHAT YOU'RE UP TO, OKAY?
I JUST NEED YOU TO LOOK AT DYLAN AND TELL ME IF--
BWAAH BWAAH
MAKER, WHAT IS THIS? WHAT'S--
It's an intruder alert. Don't be alarmed.
It would take the collected ordnance of an army to breach my--
BODDIE, GET DOWN! IT'S--

BOOM
--VIRUS!
YOU THINK YOU CAN RUN FROM ME, BROCK?!
DYLAN, GET BEHIND ME! NOW!
And just who the hell are you supposed to be?

YOU RUIN MY LIFE, AND YOU THINK YOU GET TO JUST WALK AWAY?!
YOU AND YOUR LITTLE BOY ARE GOING TO--
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHO YOU ARE, YOU IDIOT!
BUT IF YOU THREATEN MY CHILD AGAIN, I SWEAR WE WILL--
BOOM
YOU'LL DO WHAT?! HUH?!
KRAK
Why can I not ever get any work done when this man is around?
-sigh-
Suit?
YES, SIR?
Wrist cannons.
AUTO-CANNONS SYNTHESIZED.
FWAM
FWAM

FWAM
FWAM
NO, HEY-- AGHH!!!
THANKS FOR THE SHIELD. AT LEAST YOU'RE GOOD FOR ONE THING!
AND WHAT ARE YOU GOOD FOR, HUH? YOUR TAPED-TOGETHER ARMOR CAN'T EVEN TAKE A BULLET!
AND WHAT IS THAT? AN OLD GOBLIN GLIDER? WHO ARE--
AGH!
YOU WANNA KNOW WHO I AM?
I'M THE MAN WHOSE LIFE YOU RUINED.
AND NOW I'M THE LAST PERSON YOU'LL EVER SEE.
MY NAME IS--
BOOOOM
DAMMIT, NO, THE MACHINE!!!

SIR, THE MACHINE. IT IS--
Shut up.
NO!
MAKER, WHAT'S WRONG WITH IT?
An idiot threw a *pumpkin-shaped bomb* at it, is what's wrong with it!
WHAT DO WE DO?
*WE* do nothing! I find a way to turn it off before it activates and sends us all scattered to alternate--
BWAAAAAAHHH
No! Nooo!!!
GET IN FRONT OF ME, DYLAN! DON'T LET IT SUCK YOU IN!
I CAN'T! DAD, I--
JUST HANG ON TO ME! *HANG ON!!!*
YOU DON'T GET AWAY THAT EASY, BROCK.
IF YOU GET SUCKED INTO THE PIT OF HELL ITSELF...
...THEN I'LL KILL YOU IN THE FIRE.

No... I'm...
UNIVERSE DESIGNATE: 1610.
HELP US, IRON MAN!
WHERE ARE THE ULTIMATES?
...home.
But... this...
...this is...
...perfect.

EDDIE! HAVE TO WAKE UP. EDDIE, PLEASE, THIS PLACE IS...MADDENING. CANNOT THINK. TOO MANY. TOO MANY VOICES. NEED YOUR HELP. PLEASE WAKE UP. PLEASE--
YEAH... YEAH, I'M... I'M UP. WHERE IS--
DYLAN!
CAN YOU-- SENSE HIM? IS HE--
HE'S OKAY, EDDIE. EXHAUSTED. IN SHOCK. BUT HE'S OKAY.
THANK GOD.
DYLAN. HEY. HEY, BUDDY, TALK TO ME, OKAY?
DAD? WHAT... WHAT IS THAT?
IT'S... IT'S SO LOUD!
LOUD? I... I DON'T KNOW. I CAN'T HEAR ANYTHING.
DAD...WHERE ARE WE? MY MIND IS ALL...FUZZY. HOW DID WE GET HERE? I DON'T REMEMBER...
ME NEITHER. I...I DON'T KNOW, BUT...
...LET'S JUST GET YOU...

...HOME?

TAXI
TAXI

MY OTHER HAS SENSES THAT I'M JUST NOW BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND.
IT CAN DETECT CHANGES IN WEATHER MONTHS IN ADVANCE, PREDICT EARTHQUAKES. FEEL THE PRESENCE OF DANGER FROM MILES AWAY...
IT CAN TELL WHEN YOU'RE LYING. IT CAN SEE IN THE DARK.
BREATHE UNDERWATER. IT'S AUDIBLE IN SPACE. IT CAN HEAL MOST WOUNDS.
IT CAN ALLOW YOU TO CONTROL YOUR OWN DREAMS WHILE YOU'RE SLEEPING.
I IMAGINE I'M JUST SCRATCHING THE LIMITS OF ITS ABILITIES TOO.
AND YET, HERE...IN THIS INSANE PLACE...
...WHEN I ASK IT WHERE WE ARE...
...ALL IT SAYS IS:

NO @#!%$ CLUE, EDDIE.
SINCE WHEN DO YOU CUSS?
ALWAYS KNOWN THE WORDS, EDDIE.
JUST NEVER FELT THE NEED TO USE THEM...
YEAH... WELL...
NO @#$%.
DAD... WHERE ARE WE? WHAT'S GOING ON?
COME HERE, DYLAN...
I... I DON'T KNOW, SON. MY MEMORY IS A LITTLE FOGGY. I... WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER?
WE...WENT TO SEE THE MAKER... HE HAD THE MACHINE AND THEN...THERE WAS A FIGHT?
YEAH. YEAH, RIGHT. A FIGHT WITH--
VIRUS.

WHAT DID YOU DO TO ME?!
FWOOSH
DYLAN, MOVE!
DAD, NO! WAIT!
WE'LL FINISH THIS.
WOOSH
DAD!!!

AGH!
WHAM
UGH! FELT THAT.
YES. VIBRATIONAL GAUNTLETS. WE NEED TO END THIS FAST, EDDIE...
YEAH...

...I'M ON IT.
AAAAAAA

YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW LUCKY YOU ARE, VIRUS!
I TRY TO MAKE IT A RULE TO NOT KILL PEOPLE IN FRONT OF MY KID...
KRUNCH

KRAK
...BUT HE'S NOT HERE!
SO GUESS WHAT, @##$%&%? I'M GONNA RIP THAT IDIOTIC ARMOR OFF, THEN THIS TIME I REALLY AM GOING TO EAT YOUR--

FWOSSSHH
OH YEAH?
AGHH!!!
WELL, LUCKY FOR ME...
I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN THAT POOR LITTLE DYLAN IS ALL ALONE EITHER...

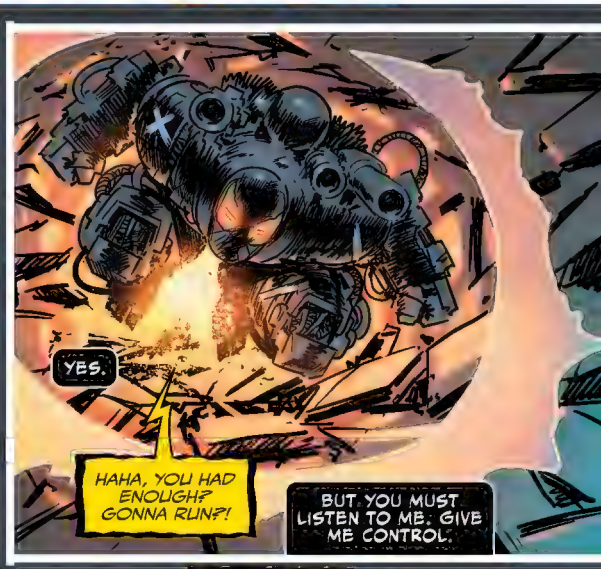
BOOM

CAN'T HELP BUT NOTICE WE HAVEN'T STOPPED FALLING...
SOME WINGS WOULD BE KINDA HELPFUL RIGHT--
KEEP DOING IT! KEEP SAYING MY SON'S NAME!
BAM
SORRY, EDDIE. IT'S...HARD...HARD TO THINK IN THIS PLACE.
BECAUSE EVERY TIME YOU DO, IT ADDS AN HOUR OF PAIN BEFORE YOU DIE!
WELL, FIGURE IT OUT! DO SOMETHING! ALL I HAVE ARE WEBS, AND AGAINST THIS GUY, I DON'T--
TRYING! TOO MUCH... INTERFERENCE!
SPLAT
INTERFERENCE? WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
NEVER BEEN THIS CLOSE TO A HIVE MIND BEFORE...
YOU--YOU DON'T GET IT!!!
TRYING...TO CONNECT...BUT IS DIFFICULT TO BREAK THROUGH... AND KEEP OUR PRESENCE... SECRET...ALMOST... THERE...BREAKING THROUGH... I CAN--
THOOM
KRAK
WE DON'T CARE!
YOU HAVE NO IDEA THE PAIN YOU HAVE CAUSED ME.
WELL. LET'S KEEP ADDING, SHALL WE?!
AGGHH!!!
AGHHHH!!!

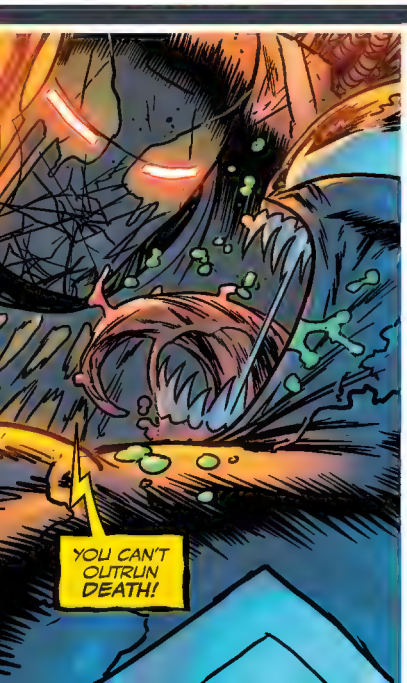
YOU OKAY? WHAT'S--
YES, YES, OKAY, BUT... LEARNING...
LEARNING? FROM WHAT? WHAT ARE YOU--
FWOM
FWOM
NEW HIVE! THINGS... UNLOCKING. WE ARE CAPABLE OF SO MUCH!
IT'S... BEAUTIFUL...
HIVE? WHAT? CAPABLE OF WHAT?
AGH!!!
BA
LIGH!
KTHOOM
HELLO? HEY, WHERE DID YOU GO? I KINDA NEED SOME HELP RIGHT--
THIS IS OVER! JUST GIVE UP AND--
WAM
HEY!!! WHERE ARE YOU?!
THIS ONLY ENDS ONE WAY, BROCK!
K-CHUCK

THOOM
THOOM
THOOM
AGH!!!
I AM HERE, EDDIE!

THWP
I WAS LOST. LEARNING...
GOOD FOR YOU. ANYTHING WE CAN USE TO PUT THIS IDIOT DOWN FOR GOOD?

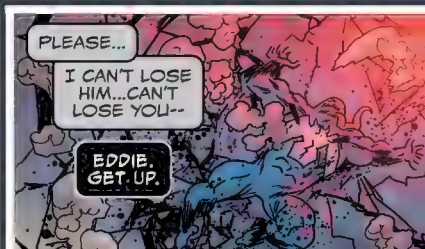

YES.
HAHA, YOU HAD ENOUGH? GONNA RUN?!
BUT YOU MUST LISTEN TO ME. GIVE ME CONTROL.

YOU DON'T GET TO RUN!


YOU CAN'T OUTRUN DEATH!

YZZARSH

BOOM
EDDIE...

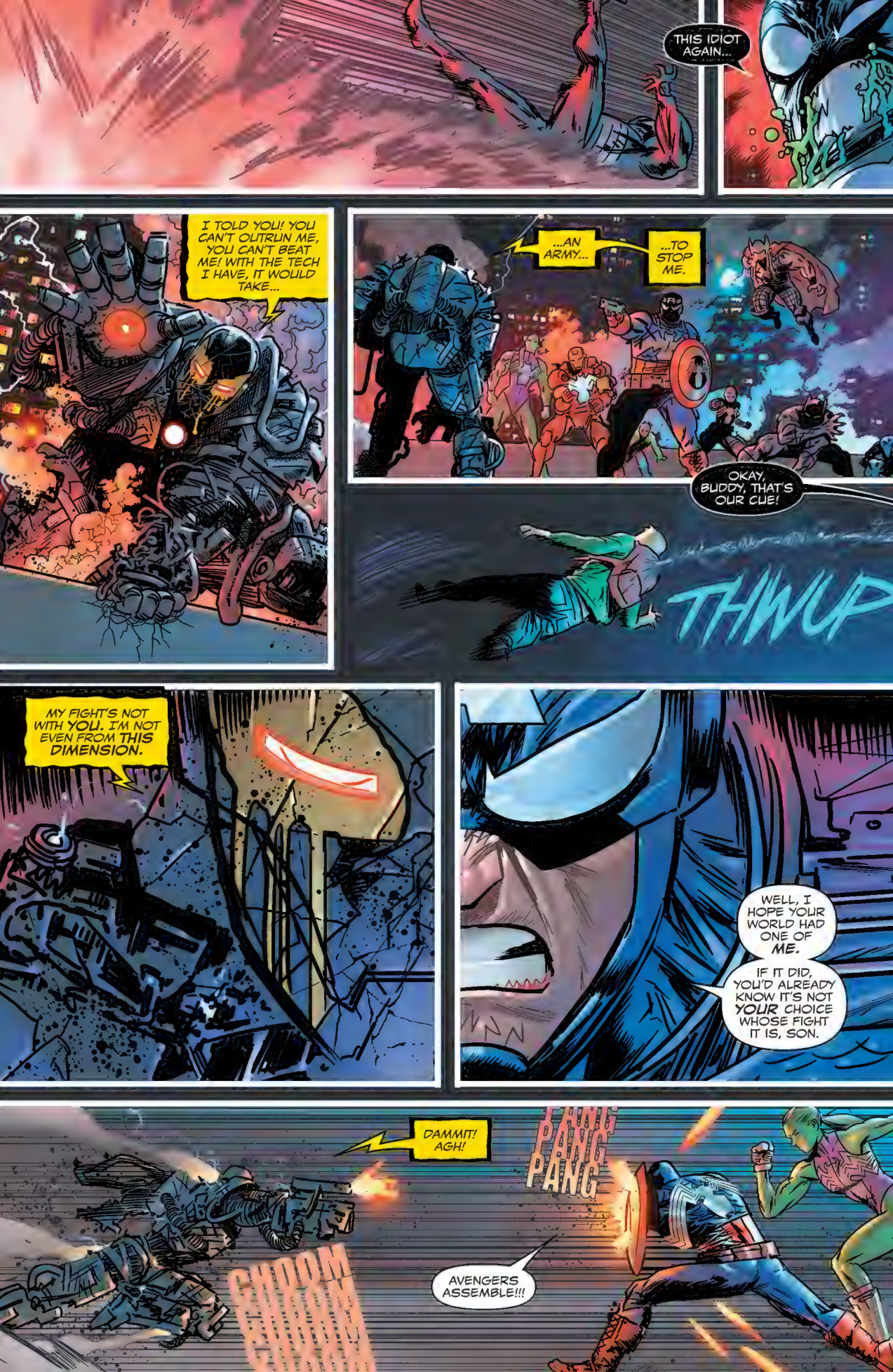

PLEASE...
I CAN'T LOSE HIM...CAN'T LOSE YOU--
EDDIE, GET UP.

EDDIE, LISTEN TO ME--
ALL OF THE ENERGY HE SHOT YOU WITH? ALL OF HIS "FURY"?
HOW DOES IT FEEL, BROCK?
AGHHH!
WHAT'S HAPPENING?! IT HURTS! FEELS LIKE WE'RE GOING TO EXP--
WE CAN USE THAT ENERGY. STORE IT.
AND REDIRECT IT.
...TO BE WEAK? TO BE POWERLESS?
WHAT? USE IT HOW?!
SWAST
AGGHHH!!!
LIKE THIS, EDDIE.
IT HURTS LIKE HELL...
KRUMB
BUT THIS?
THIS FEELS AMAZING.
SZZZT

DAD! HELP!
DYLAN...
THWIP
THWIP
WAIT...HOW DID I HEAR THAT? HE MUST BE FIFTY STORIES UP!
YOU DIDN'T HEAR IT. NOT REALLY.
YOU FELT IT. WE BOTH DID.
FRSH
FRSH
I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT'S HAPPENING. THIS PLACE...IT'S...
DON'T UNDERSTAND IT EITHER, EDDIE. STILL A JUMBLE IN OUR HEAD...TOO MUCH TO SIFT THROUGH...
HAVE NOT BEEN THIS CLOSE TO A HIVE MIND SINCE BORN.
A HIVE MIND HERE? WHAT IS GOING ON?!
TIME FOR THAT LATER.
RIGHT. GAME FACE.
RMMMBL
DYLAN!

SIR. WE'RE GOING TO NEED YOU TO STEP OUT OF YOUR SYMBIOTE AND PUT YOUR HANDS BEHIND YOUR HEAD.
D-DAD?

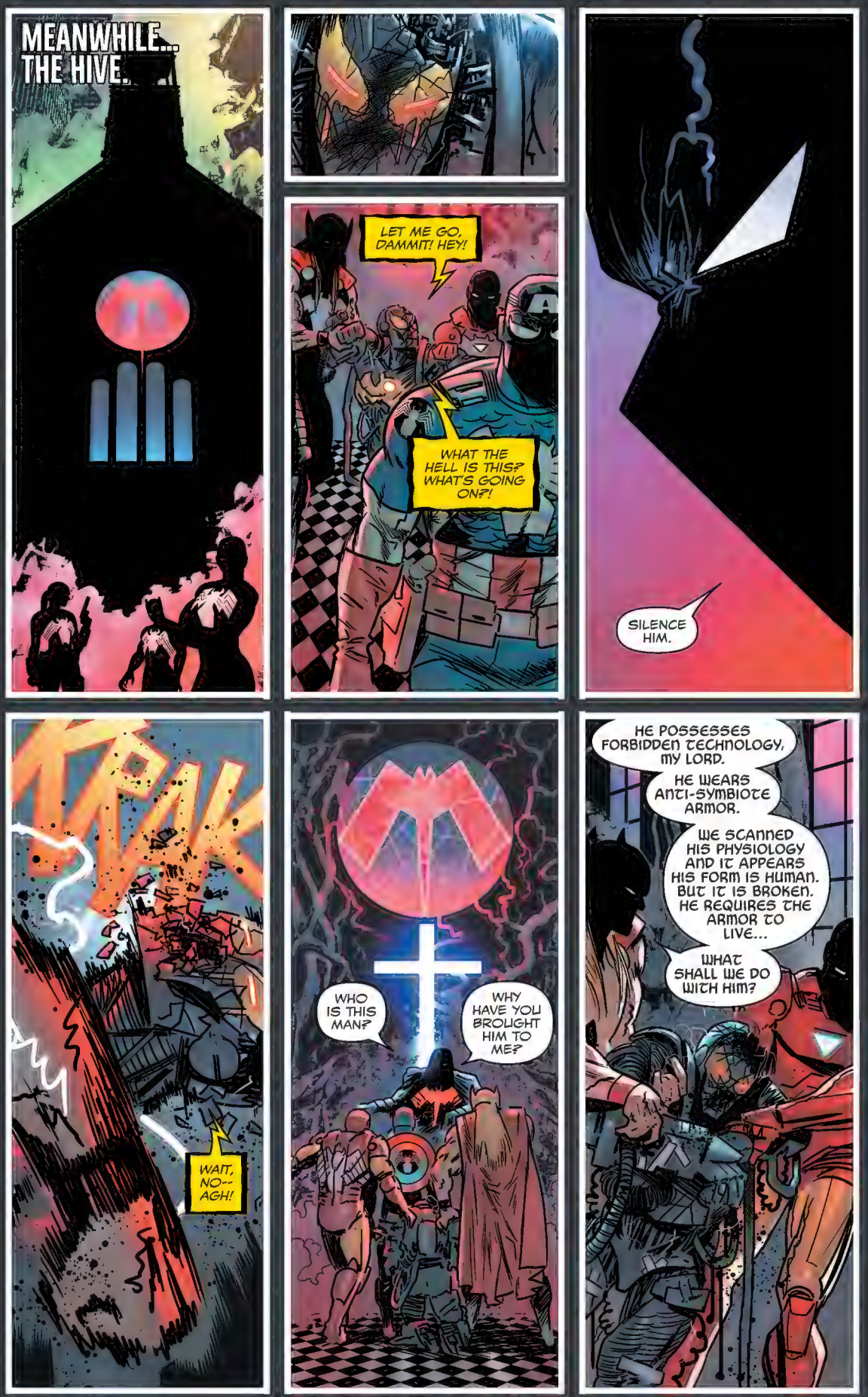
OKAY, JUST...JUST HOLD ON.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS IS...
...BUT THIS IS ME, GUYS. YOU KNOW ME.
CAP...STEVE, WHAT ARE YOU DOING--
SIR, I HAVE NO IDEA WHO YOU ARE.
NOW, I'M GOING TO ASK YOU AGAIN NICELY.
I NEED YOU TO REMOVE YOUR SYMBIOTE AND PUT YOUR HANDS ON YOUR HEAD. NOW.
DAD...I CAN SENSE THEM. SOMETHING IS WRONG WITH THEM. THEY AREN'T...
SIR! THIS IS YOUR LAST WARNING!
YOU NEED TO GET YOUR HANDS OFF OF MY KID BEFORE--
THAT'S IT! AVENGERS ASSEM--
OH, BLOW IT OUT YOUR--
BOOM


THIS IDIOT AGAIN...
I TOLD YOU! YOU CAN'T OUTRUN ME, YOU CAN'T BEAT ME! WITH THE TECH I HAVE, IT WOULD TAKE...
...AN ARMY...
...TO STOP ME.
OKAY, BUDDY, THAT'S OUR CUE!
THWUP
MY FIGHT'S NOT WITH YOU. I'M NOT EVEN FROM THIS DIMENSION.
WELL, I HOPE YOUR WORLD HAD ONE OF ME.
IF IT DID, YOU'D ALREADY KNOW IT'S NOT YOUR CHOICE WHOSE FIGHT IT IS, SON.
DAMMIT! AGH!
PANG PANG PANG
AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!!!
CHOOM CHOOM

THWUP
DAD, WHAT ARE WE DOING? WE CAN'T JUST LEAVE THEM TO--
WE CAN AND WE ARE...
WE'RE GETTING YOU TO SAFETY. AND WHOEVER THE HELL THOSE VENOM-AVENGERS UP THERE ARE...
"...THEY SEEM LIKE THEY CAN HANDLE THEMSELVES JUST FINE."
DATATATA!
SMASH
WHAM
OKAY!!! OKAY...I GIVE UP...JUST...TAKE ME TO THE COPS OR WHATEVER--
CRUNCH
WE DON'T DO COPS HERE, SON. YOU BREAK THE CODE, YOU FACE THE PUNISHMENT BEFORE OUR LEADER, CODEX!
FINE...THEN IF THAT'S HOW IT IS...
I TOLD YOU... MY FIGHT'S NOT WITH YOU...
AGH!!!
WHIRRRR
BUT YOU KNOW...
...I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO KILL AN AVENGER...

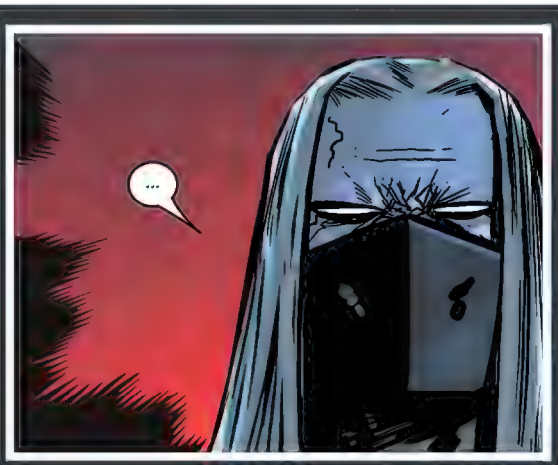
KHOOM
STAGGER
NOW...
THAT...
STAGGER
SSSS
WHAT...
WHAT THE @#$% IS...
THAT HURT.
ANTI-SYMBIOTE TECH IS ILLEGAL.
YOU JUST EARNED YOURSELF A TRIP TO THE HIVE.
HEY...
EXIT
...WHERE'D THAT GUY AND HIS KID GO?

DAD, WHAT'S GOING ON? WHERE ARE WE?
JUST KEEP MOVING, OKAY?
KID'S GOT A POINT. WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON? WHOEVER THE HELL HE IS, VIRUS SAID THIS ISN'T OUR DIMENSION. WHERE ARE WE?
DON'T KNOW, EDDIE. NOTHING FEELS FAMILIAR. HARD TO THINK. TOO MANY VOICES.
TRYING TO HIDE US FROM THEM.
WELL, THAT'S GREAT. THANKS FOR THE HELP.
ARE YOU TALKING TO THE SYMBIOTE? WHAT'S IT SAYING? CAN I TALK TO IT? MAYBE WE CAN--
NO.
WE JUST HAVE TO FIND SOMEWHERE TO LIE LOW.
THERE HAS TO BE AN EXPLANATION FOR THIS. SOMEONE WE CAN GO TO FOR HELP.
SOMEONE WHO WON'T TRY TO KILL US!
EDDIE! THERE'S SOMEONE--
YEAH, I CAN SEE THAT!
I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE. BUT IF YOU'RE RUNNING FROM THEM...
...COME WITH US.


MEANWHILE... THE HIVE.
LET ME GO, DAMMIT! HEY!
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS? WHAT'S GOING ON?!
SILENCE HIM.
KRAK
WAIT, NO-- AGH!
WHO IS THIS MAN?
WHY HAVE YOU BROUGHT HIM TO ME?
HE POSSESSES FORBIDDEN TECHNOLOGY, MY LORD.
HE WEARS ANTI-SYMBIOTE ARMOR.
WE SCANNED HIS PHYSIOLOGY AND IT APPEARS HIS FORM IS HUMAN. BUT IT IS BROKEN. HE REQUIRES THE ARMOR TO LIVE...
WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH HIM?

HMMM. I SEE...

REMOVE HIS HELMET.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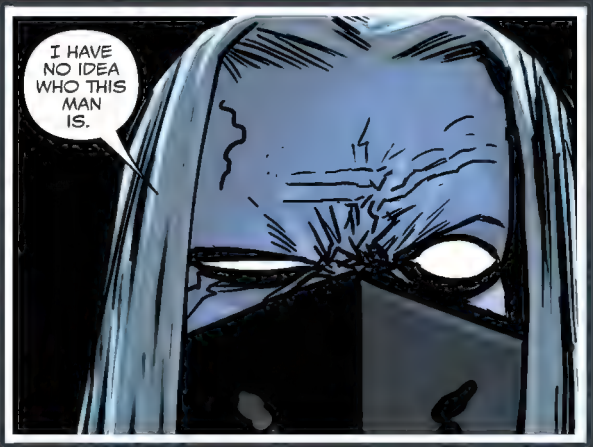
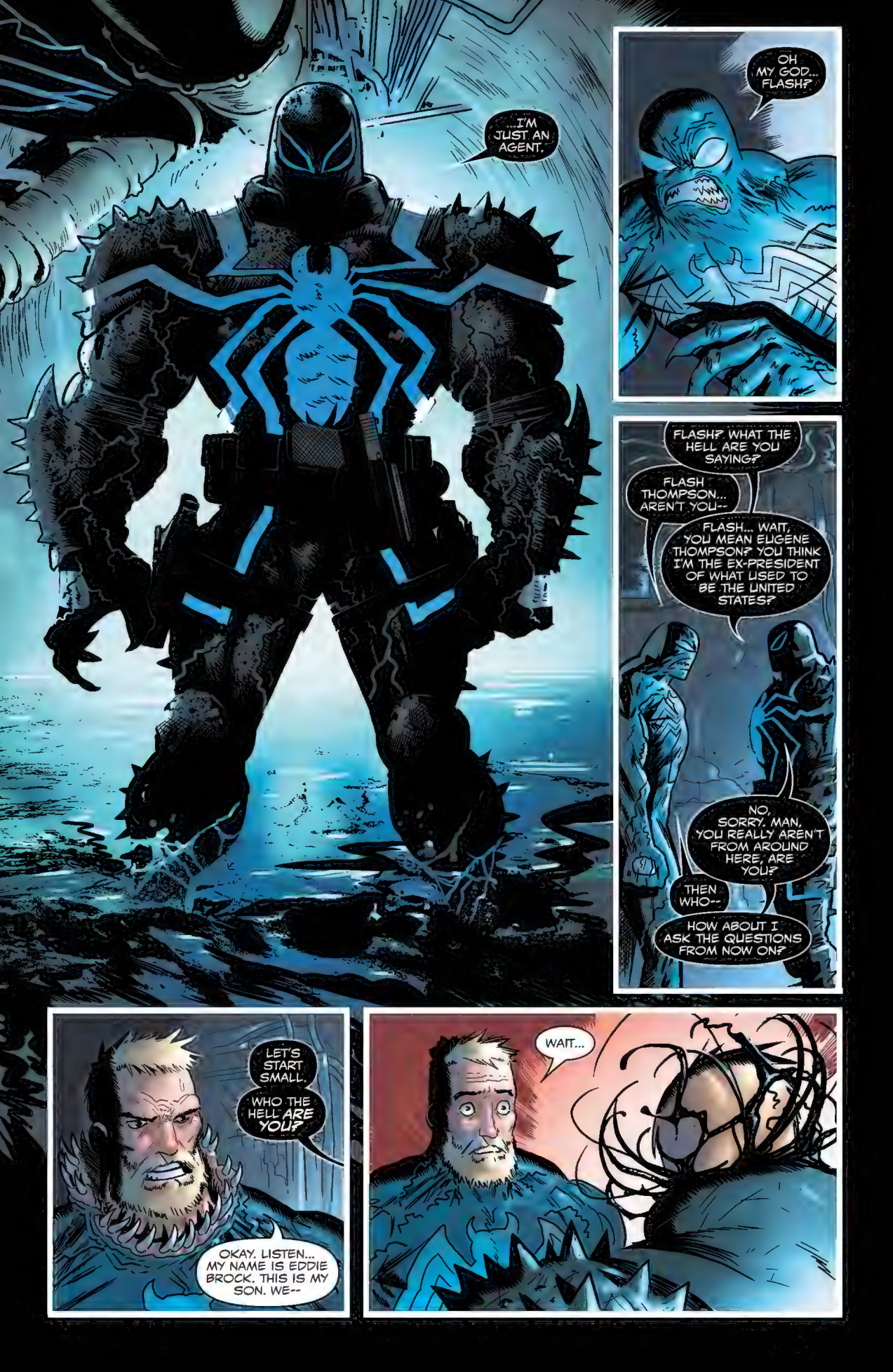
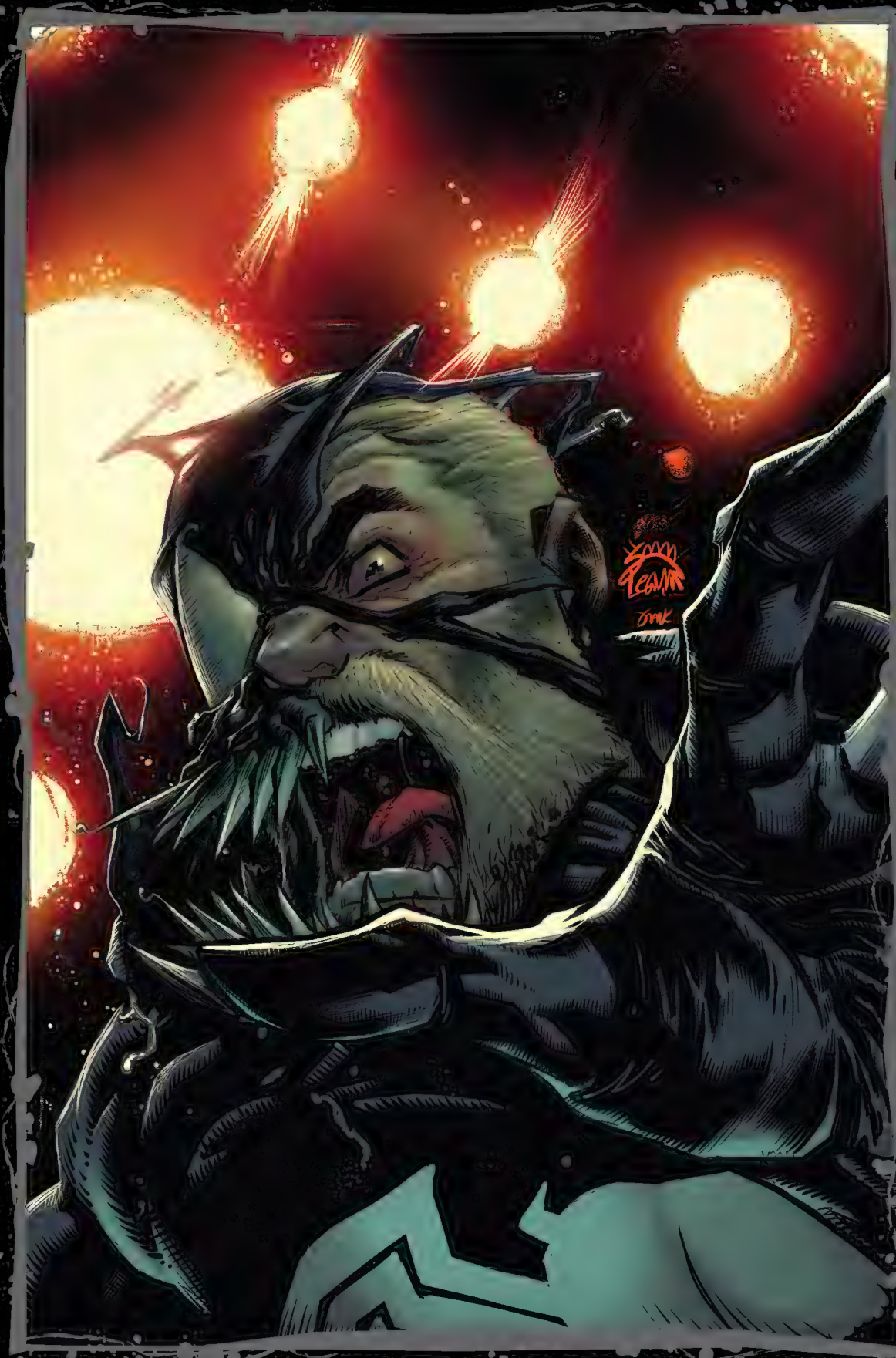

I HAVE NO IDEA WHO THIS MAN IS.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND. WHO ARE YOU? WHAT'S GOING ON?
YOU MUST BE NEW AROUND HERE... WHERE ARE YOU FROM?
THAT'S...GOING TO BE A LITTLE HARD TO ANSWER.
HOW DO I KNOW I CAN TRUST YOU?
HOW DID YOU FIND US?
YOU'RE HUMAN. WELL, MOSTLY. WE CAN SENSE YOU. IT'S WHAT WE DO.
WE'RE THE ONLY ONES LEFT WHO HAVEN'T BEEN TAKEN OVER BY CODEX AND HIS HIVE.
CODEX? WHO IS THAT? AND WHAT DOES THAT MEAN? THE ONLY ONES LEFT OF WHAT?
HUMANITY.
WH-WHAT? SO YOU'RE, WHAT...THE LEADER OF THE UNDERGROUND OR SOMETHING?
SOMETHING LIKE THAT, SURE.
BUT WE DON'T HAVE LEADERS...
ME?


...I'M JUST AN AGENT.
OH MY GOD... FLASH?
FLASH? WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU SAYING?
FLASH THOMPSON... AREN'T YOU--
FLASH... WAIT, YOU MEAN EUGENE THOMPSON? YOU THINK I'M THE EX-PRESIDENT OF WHAT USED TO BE THE UNITED STATES?
NO. SORRY, MAN, YOU REALLY AREN'T FROM AROUND HERE, ARE YOU?
THEN WHO--
HOW ABOUT I ASK THE QUESTIONS FROM NOW ON?
LET'S START SMALL.
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?
OKAY. LISTEN... MY NAME IS EDDIE BROCK. THIS IS MY SON. WE--
WAIT...

EDDIE?
DAD?
DAD... WHAT'S GOING ON? WHO IS--
...ANNIE?



#28 VARIANT BY **RYAN STEGMAN** & **FRANK MARTIN**

HIS NAME IS CODEX.
HE IS THE UNCONTESTED RULER OF THE WORLD.
EVERY CITY. EVERY STATE. EVERY CORNER OF THIS PLANET LIES IN THE PALM OF HIS HAND...
AND DAY BY DAY...

...HIS GRIP GROWS TIGHTER.

OTTO, HOW ARE WE COMING ALONG? HAS THIS ONE BEEN BONDED?

NOT YET, CODEX. THE SYMBIOTE YOU CHOSE FOR HIM SEEMS ODDLY... HESITANT OF HIM. AS IF IT IS EXAMINING HIM OR...STUDYING HIM FOR SOME REASON.

HMM. WELL, KILL IT AND START OVER IF IT DOESN'T GET ITS ACT TOGETHER SOON.

CAN **HE** SPEAK?

I WANT TO KNOW WHAT ALL OF... ***THIS***...IS ABOUT.

YES. YES, OF COURSE. AT ONCE.

PLEASE! PLEASE LET ME OUT! I'LL DO WHATEVER YOU--

YOU'LL DO WHATEVER I WANT WHETHER ***YOU*** WANT TO OR NOT.

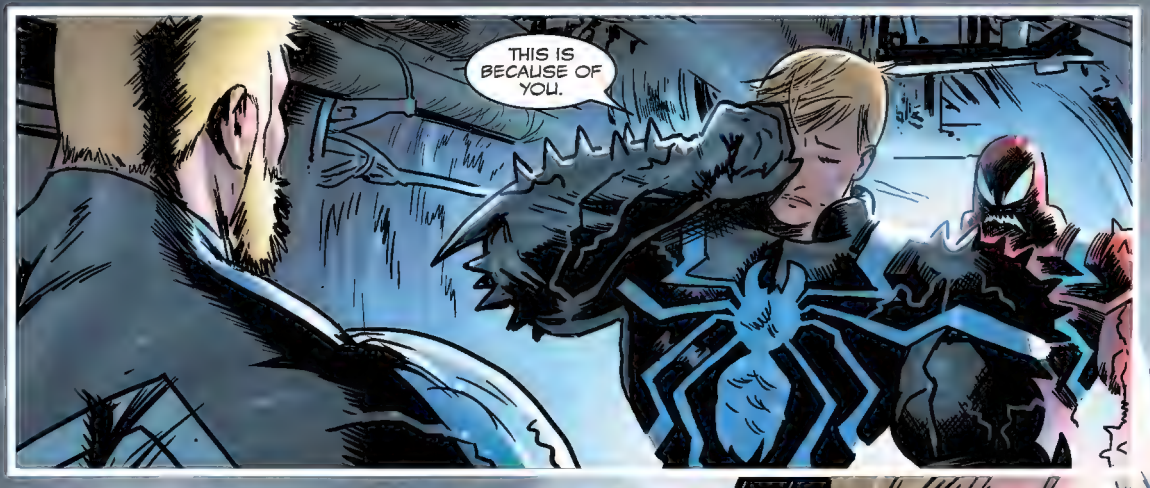
NOW...

THIS SUIT OF YOURS... THIS VIRUS ARMOR AS I'M TOLD...
IT'S SYMBIOTE-HUNTING TECHNOLOGY, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE IT WAS PILFERED FROM AN INDUSTRIAL GRAVEYARD...
WAR MACHINE COMPONENTS.
COBBLED TOGETHER WITH AUGMENTED AND ANCIENT GOBLIN TECHNOLOGY.
WHERE DID YOU EVEN FIND--
IT'S ALL I COULD AFFORD, OKAY? BOUGHT IT ALL OFF THE TINKERER AND SOME BLACK MARKETS.
INTERRUPT ME AGAIN AND IT WILL BE THE LAST TIME YOU SPEAK.
THE TINKERER HAS BEEN DEAD FOR SOME TIME. AS ARE STARK AND OSBORN. I WOULD KNOW.
NOW TRY AGAIN. AND I WOULD HIGHLY ENCOURAGE HONESTY.
I'M NOT FROM THIS WORLD! I WAS CHASING BROCK AND HIS KID, AND WE FELL THROUGH THIS WORMHOLE THING AND ENDED UP--
BROCK?!
CRASH
TELL.
ME.
EVERYTHING.

MEANWHILE...
ANNIE...
HOW...HOW CAN THIS BE REAL?
"ANNIE"? WHAT'S GOING ON?
I...I NEVER THOUGHT I WOULD SEE YOU AGA--
STOP IT! STOP!
DON'T DO THIS TO ME! YOU... YOU WORK FOR HIM, OR--OR--
TELL ME! TELL ME HOW YOU'RE HERE.
I WAS CHASING A MAN IN MY...MY WORLD, I GUESS. CALLS HIMSELF THE MAKER.
WE FELL THROUGH A...A KIND OF WORMHOLE. A GATE, HE CALLED IT. WE ENDED UP HERE IN THIS...THIS CRAZY FUTURE...*
I SWEAR, ANNIE. I KNOW IT SOUNDS INSANE.
I'M JUST AS CONFUSED AS YOU ARE.
*SEE VENOM #26! --ED.

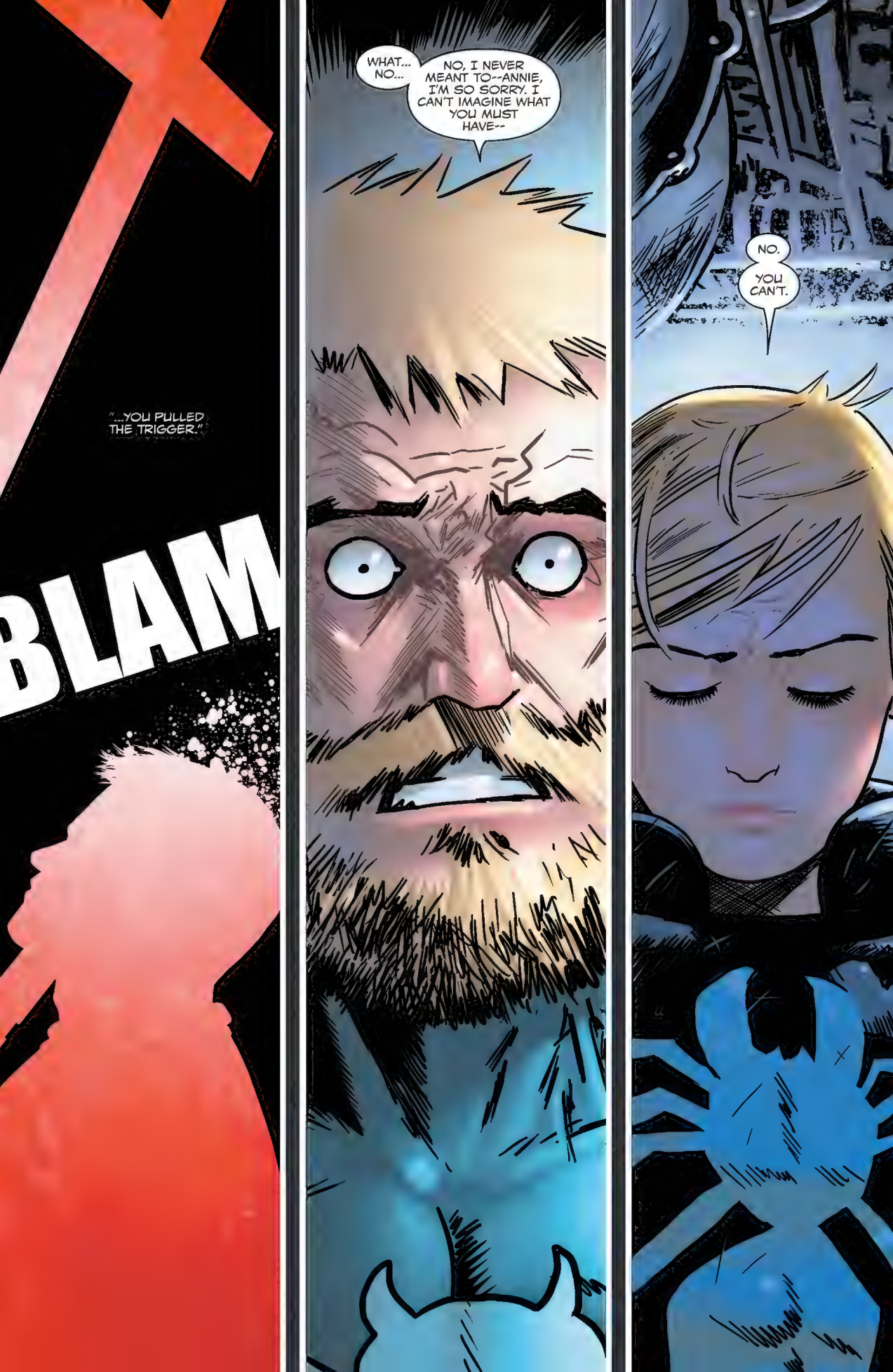
PROVE IT.
HOW DID YOU GET THAT SYMBIOTE?
I--I WAS IN A CHURCH. I HAD LOST MY JOB AND YOU AND EVERYTHING AND I... I WENT THERE TO...TO KILL MYSELF, AND IT--

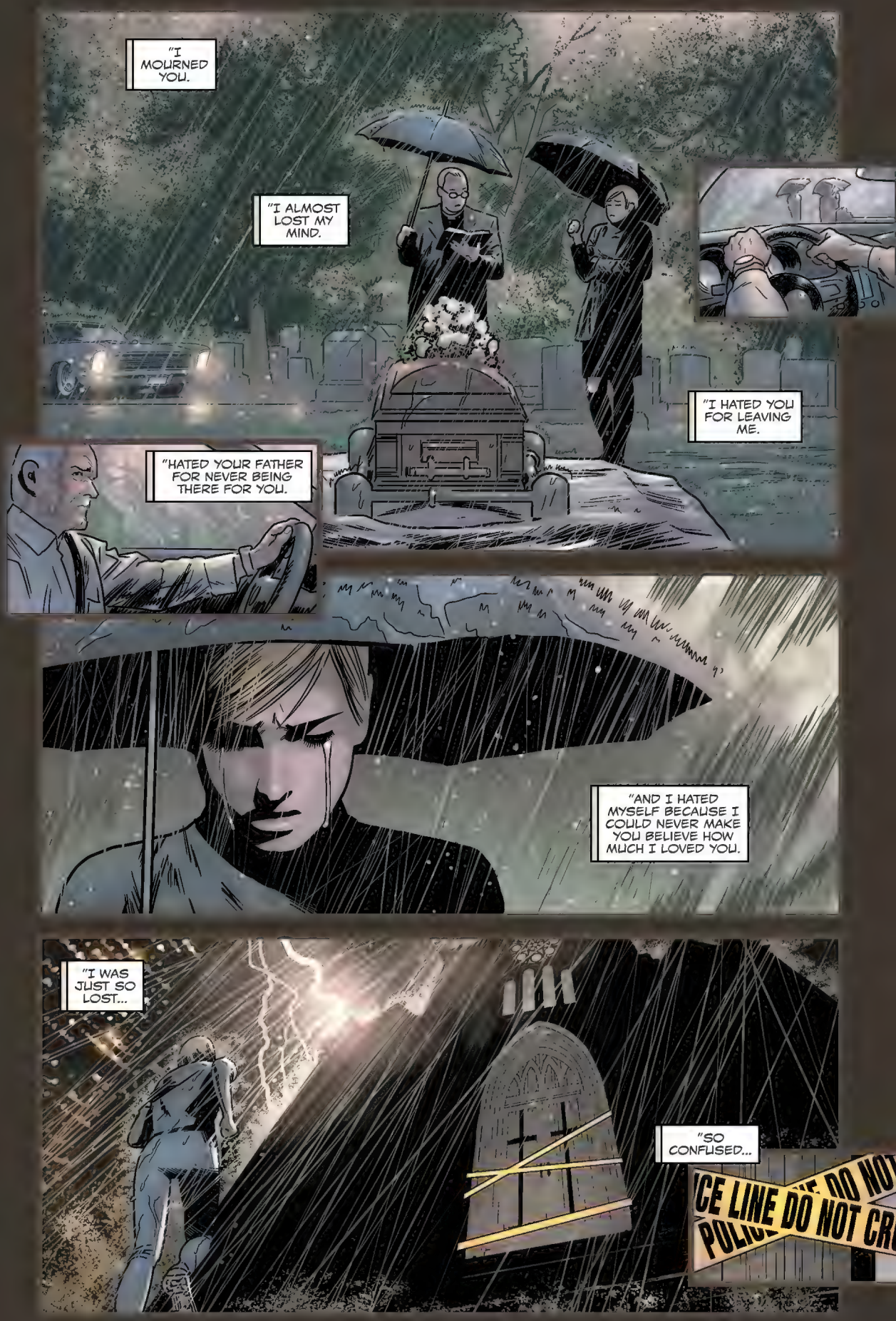
DAMMIT.
WAIT...WHAT? ANNIE, WHAT'S WRONG? I DON'T UNDERSTAND!

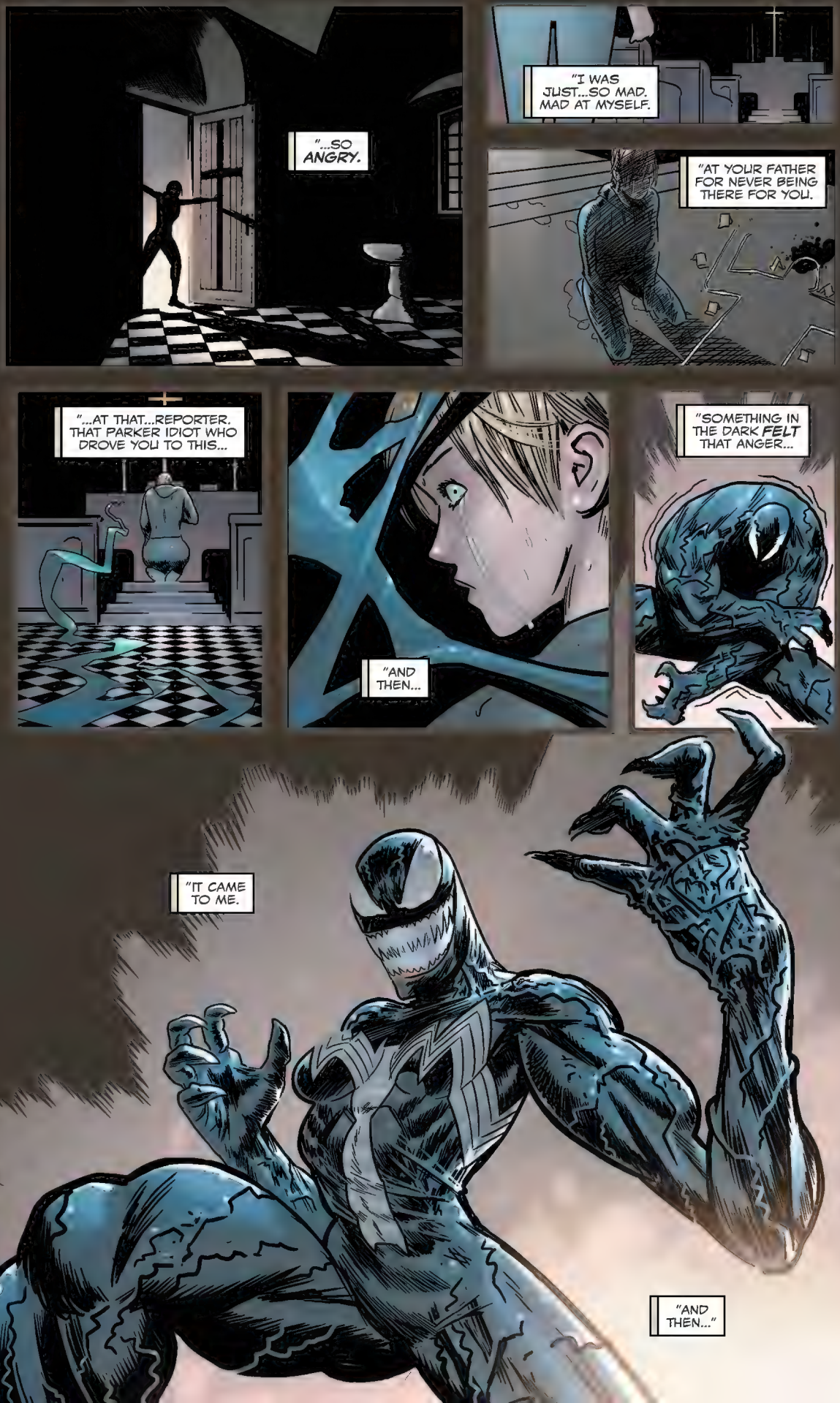

THIS IS BECAUSE OF YOU.

WHAT? HOW DID--I MEAN, HOW COULD--
HERE.

ON THIS WORLD.
ON MY WORLD.
WHEN YOU WENT INTO THAT CHURCH...


"...YOU PULLED THE TRIGGER."
BLAM
WHAT... NO...
NO, I NEVER MEANT TO--ANNIE, I'M SO SORRY. I CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT YOU MUST HAVE--
NO.
YOU CAN'T.

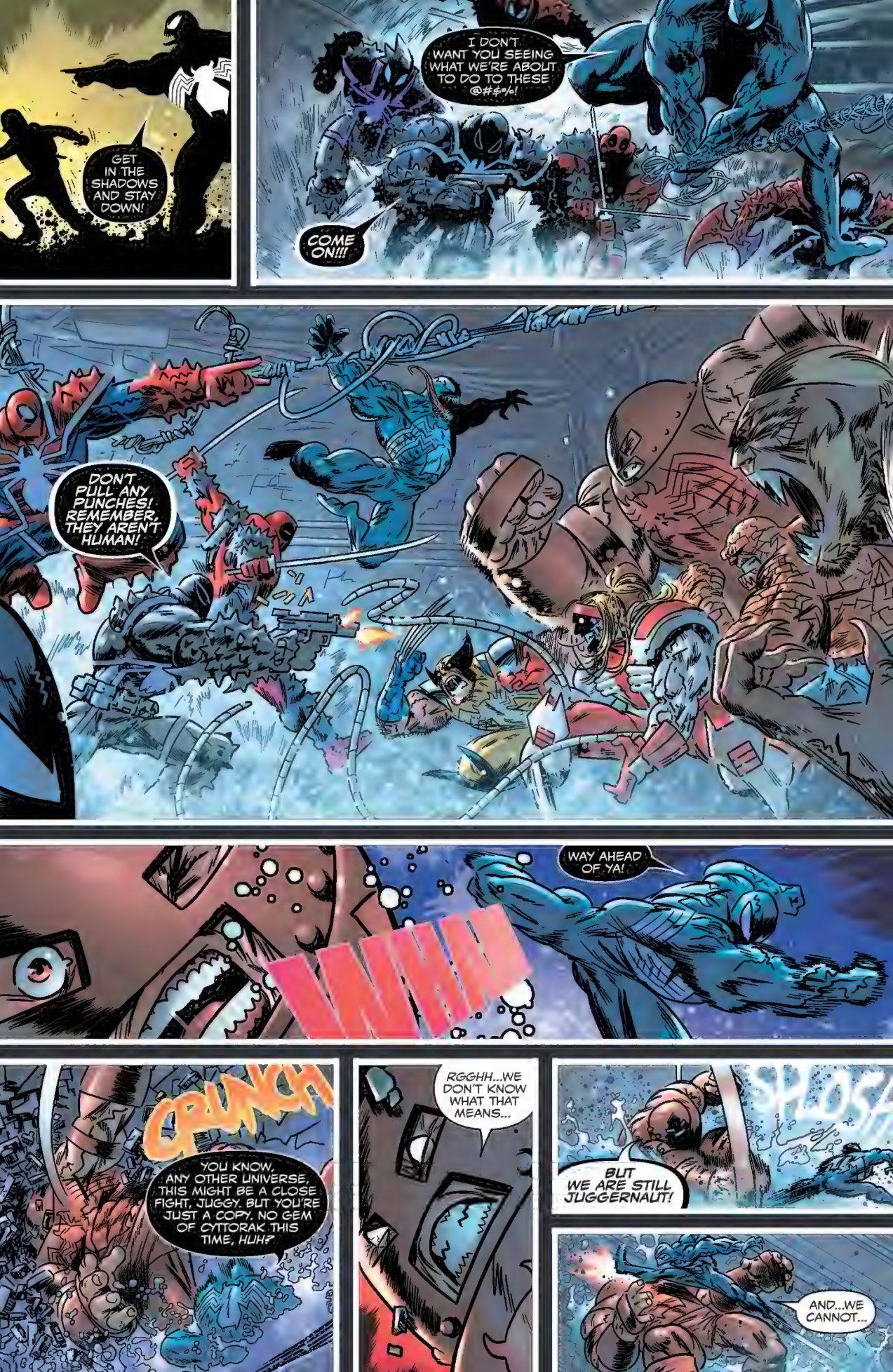

"I MOURNED YOU.
"I ALMOST LOST MY MIND.
"I HATED YOU FOR LEAVING ME.
"HATED YOUR FATHER FOR NEVER BEING THERE FOR YOU.
"AND I HATED MYSELF BECAUSE I COULD NEVER MAKE YOU BELIEVE HOW MUCH I LOVED YOU.
"I WAS JUST SO LOST...
"SO CONFUSED...
POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS


"...SO ANGRY.
"I WAS JUST...SO MAD. MAD AT MYSELF.
"AT YOUR FATHER FOR NEVER BEING THERE FOR YOU.
"...AT THAT...REPORTER. THAT PARKER IDIOT WHO DROVE YOU TO THIS...
"AND THEN...
"SOMETHING IN THE DARK FELT THAT ANGER...
"IT CAME TO ME.
"AND THEN..."

BUT... I DON'T UNDERSTAND. WHY DO YOU LOOK LIKE...
WHY DOES MY SYMBIOTE NOT LOOK LIKE YOURS?
AS YOURS PROBABLY DID, MY SYMBIOTE ALMOST IMMEDIATELY STARTED SPAWNING. PREPARING FOR SOMETHING HORRIBLE COMING...
...AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT OUR LEAD SCIENTIFIC OFFICER THINKS.
I WAS DRAFTED INTO A SHADOW UNIT BY OUR SADLY FORMER-PRESIDENT THOMPSON TO TRAIN THE NEW RECRUITS.
WE WERE LED BY A MAN NAMED REX STRICKLAND. THE FIRST HUMAN EVER BONDED TO ONE OF THE SYMBIOTES.
REX AND PRESIDENT THOMPSON DIED IN THE BIG WAR WITH CODEX. AND NOW? WE'RE ALL THAT'S LEFT.
WE USE THESE OLD TUNNELS TO GET AROUND. S.H.I.E.L.D. USED TO USE THEM TO TRANSPORT SECRET CARGO IN--
HEH, YEAH. I KNOW THESE TUNNELS.
GOOD. WELL, THEN. THAT ABOUT COVERS IT.
WANNA MEET THE TEAM?

HEY. I'M PETER PARKER. I'M THE... IDIOT REPORTER FROM THE...WELL, YOU KNOW ME. I GUESS. HI, AGAIN!
CLETUS KASADY.
AGENT WADE WILSON. FOLKS AROUND HERE CALL ME DEAD--
NO, THEY DON'T.
HEY. I'M ANDI BENTON. WELCOME TO THE TEAM.
KASADY?! YOU HAVE THIS LUNATIC ON YOUR TEAM? ARE YOU INSANE?! HE'S GOING TO KILL--
HEY! BACK OFF!
CLETUS WAS THE FIRST ONE OF US TO JOIN. AND YES, HE HAS A PAST, BUT...WITH REX'S TRAINING AND A LOT OF HELP FROM OUR SCIENCE OFFICER...
...HE'S ONE OF THE BEST AGENTS WE--
AGH! MY SPIDER-SENSE!
OH GOOD, YOU STILL HAVE THAT.
SOMETHING IS COMING. WE NEED TO MOVE RIGHT--

BOOM
NOW!
SHOW'S OVER! YOU CAN ALL STAND DOWN QUIETLY AND COME WITH US, OR...WELL...
...YOU CAN FIND OUT WHAT TIME IT IS...
...RGGHHHH...
DAMMIT, THEY MUST HAVE TRACKED YOU AND THAT KID!
GET YOUR GAME FACE ON!
YES, MA'AM.


GET IN THE SHADOWS AND STAY DOWN!
I DON'T WANT YOU SEEING WHAT WE'RE ABOUT TO DO TO THESE @#$%!
COME ON!!!
DON'T PULL ANY PUNCHES! REMEMBER, THEY AREN'T HUMAN!
WAY AHEAD OF YA!
CRUNCH
YOU KNOW, ANY OTHER UNIVERSE, THIS MIGHT BE A CLOSE FIGHT, JUGGY. BUT YOU'RE JUST A COPY. NO GEM OF CYTTORAK THIS TIME, HUH?
RGGHH...WE DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS...
SPLOSH
BUT WE ARE STILL JUGGERNAUT!
AND...WE CANNOT...

BOOM!
...BE STOPPED!
FWSHH
GUYS! REED'S DAMPENERS WILL ONLY BLIND US TO THE HIVE FOR SO LONG!
WE NEED TO END THIS!
NOW!!!
POW
WADE, GO TO PLAN X IF YOU--AGH!
YOU!
CRUNCH
TALK TOO MUCH!!!
BUT ARE RIGHT ABOUT ONE THING...
IS TIME TO END THIS!
BLAM BLAM BLAM
HA!

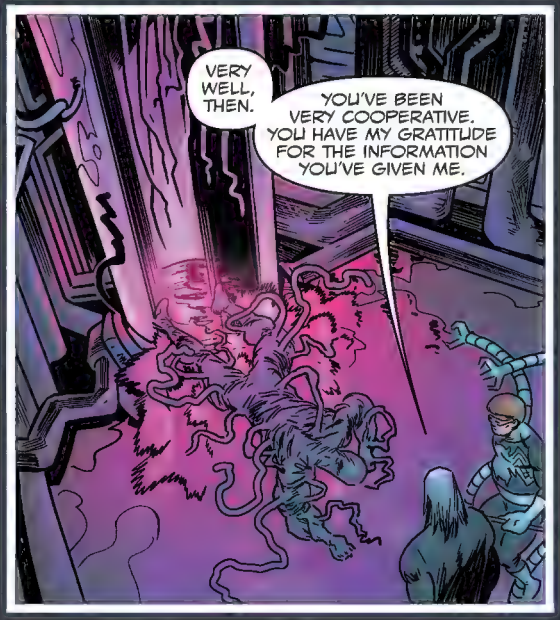
YOU THINK SHE TALKS TOO MUCH?! WELL, WAIT UNTIL YOU GET A LOAD OF--
NOT BIG ON WAITIN', BUB!
AGH!!!
SHUKK
RAAGHH!!!
VRRH
DAMMIT, WADE, COME ON! STOP GETTING STABBED AND LET'S GET OUT OF--
AGH!!!
COME ON, CLETUS!
I GOT YOUR BACK! LET'S ROLL!!!
WHA.... DIDN'T I JUST KILL THAT GUY? WHAT THE--
OKAY, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN!!!

WELCOME TO PLAN X.
THE "X" STANDS FOR 'SPLODE, BTW.
SHRK
SHRK
AH, @#$%.
EVERYONE, RUN! NOW!!!
ALL RIGHT THEN. FOR EVERYONE STAYING, LET'S GO OUT ON A JOKE, HUH?
KNOCK-KNOCK?
WHO THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU--
THE ONLY GUY WHO'S GONNA SURVIVE THIS!
BEEP
CUE THE LAUGH TRACK.
BOOM
CRUMBLE

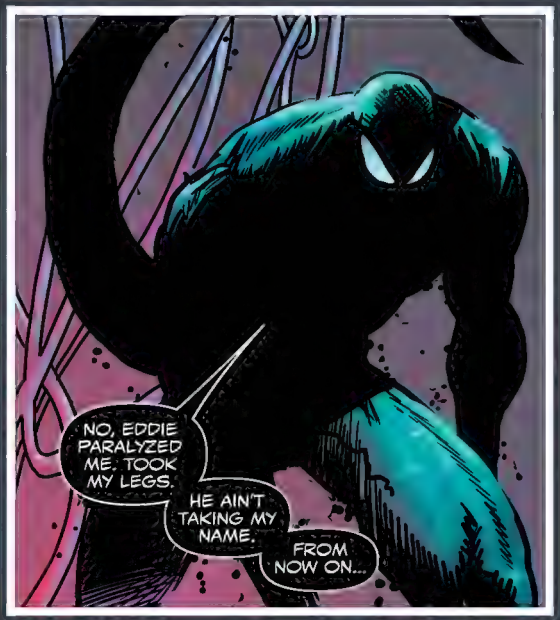
SUCCESS!

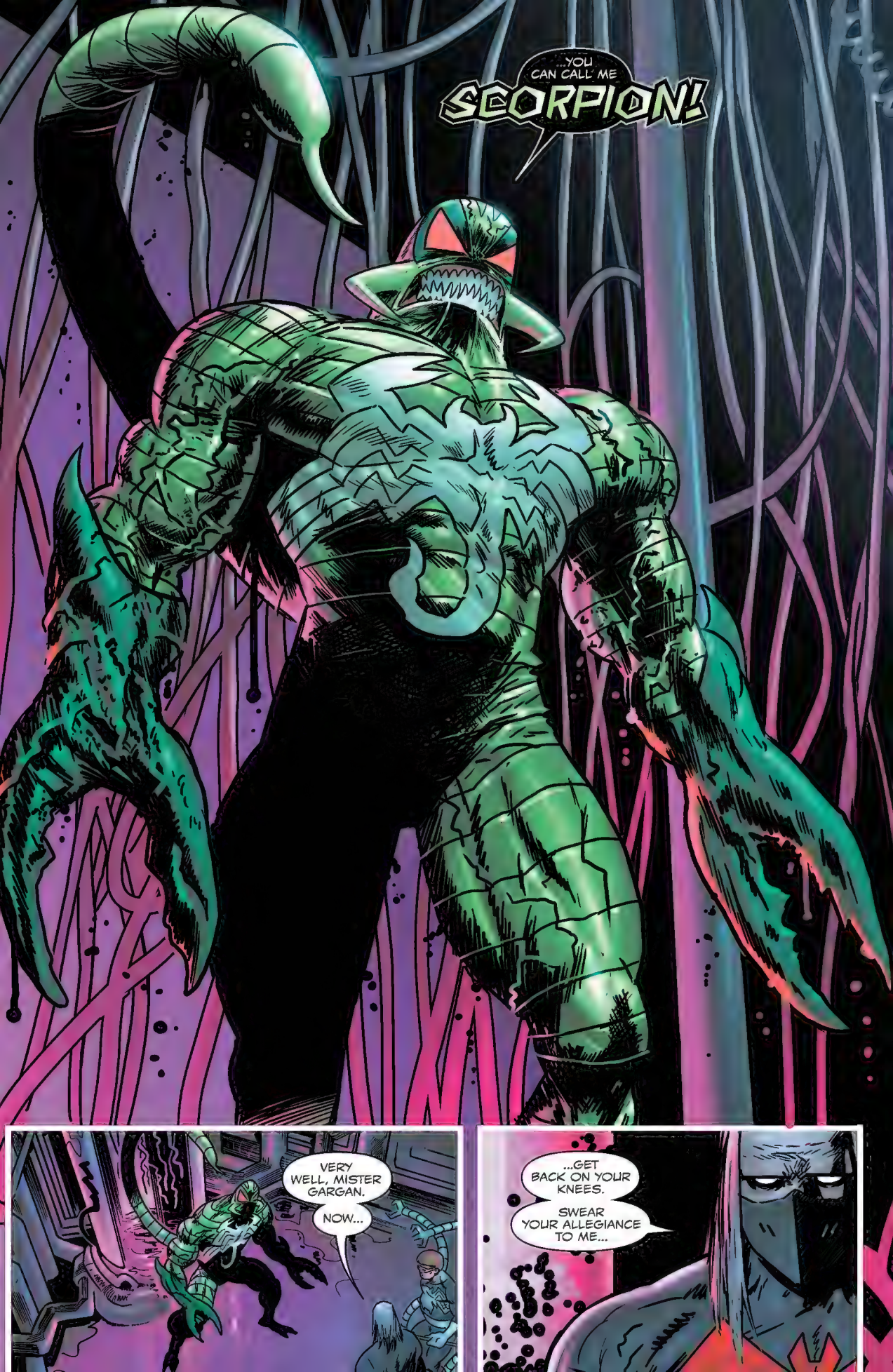
WE HAVE ACHIEVED FULL SYMBIOSIS!
AGHH!!

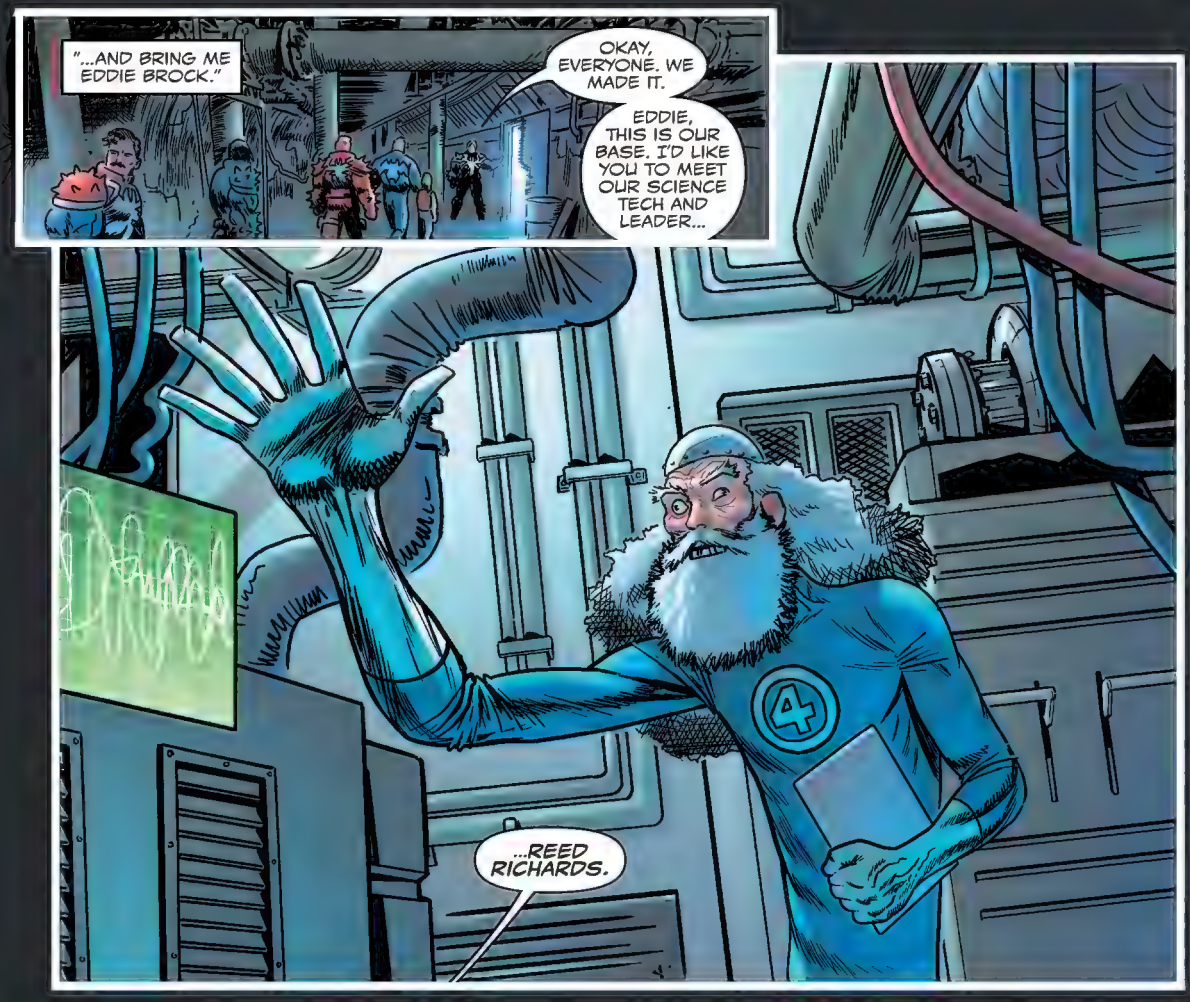
RELEASE HIM.
SPLSHH


VERY WELL, THEN.
YOU'VE BEEN VERY COOPERATIVE. YOU HAVE MY GRATITUDE FOR THE INFORMATION YOU'VE GIVEN ME.

YOUR NAME IS VIRUS, YES?
WE'LL NEED TO CHANGE THAT. BUT IT'S A START.


NO, EDDIE PARALYZED ME. TOOK MY LEGS.
HE AIN'T TAKING MY NAME.
FROM NOW ON...


...YOU CAN CALL ME SCORPION!
VERY WELL, MISTER GARGAN.
NOW...
...GET BACK ON YOUR KNEES.
SWEAR YOUR ALLEGIANCE TO ME...


"...AND BRING ME EDDIE BROCK."
OKAY, EVERYONE. WE MADE IT.
EDDIE, THIS IS OUR BASE. I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET OUR SCIENCE TECH AND LEADER...
...REED RICHARDS.

OH. GOOD.
ANOTHER ONE.
I KNOW, I KNOW. HE'S OFF HIS ROCKER, BUT HE'S ALL WE HAVE.

HEY, REED. I'M...WELL, IT'S COMPLICATED, BUT I'M EDDIE BROCK.
AH. YES. THAT IS QUITE COMPLICATED. HOW FUN!

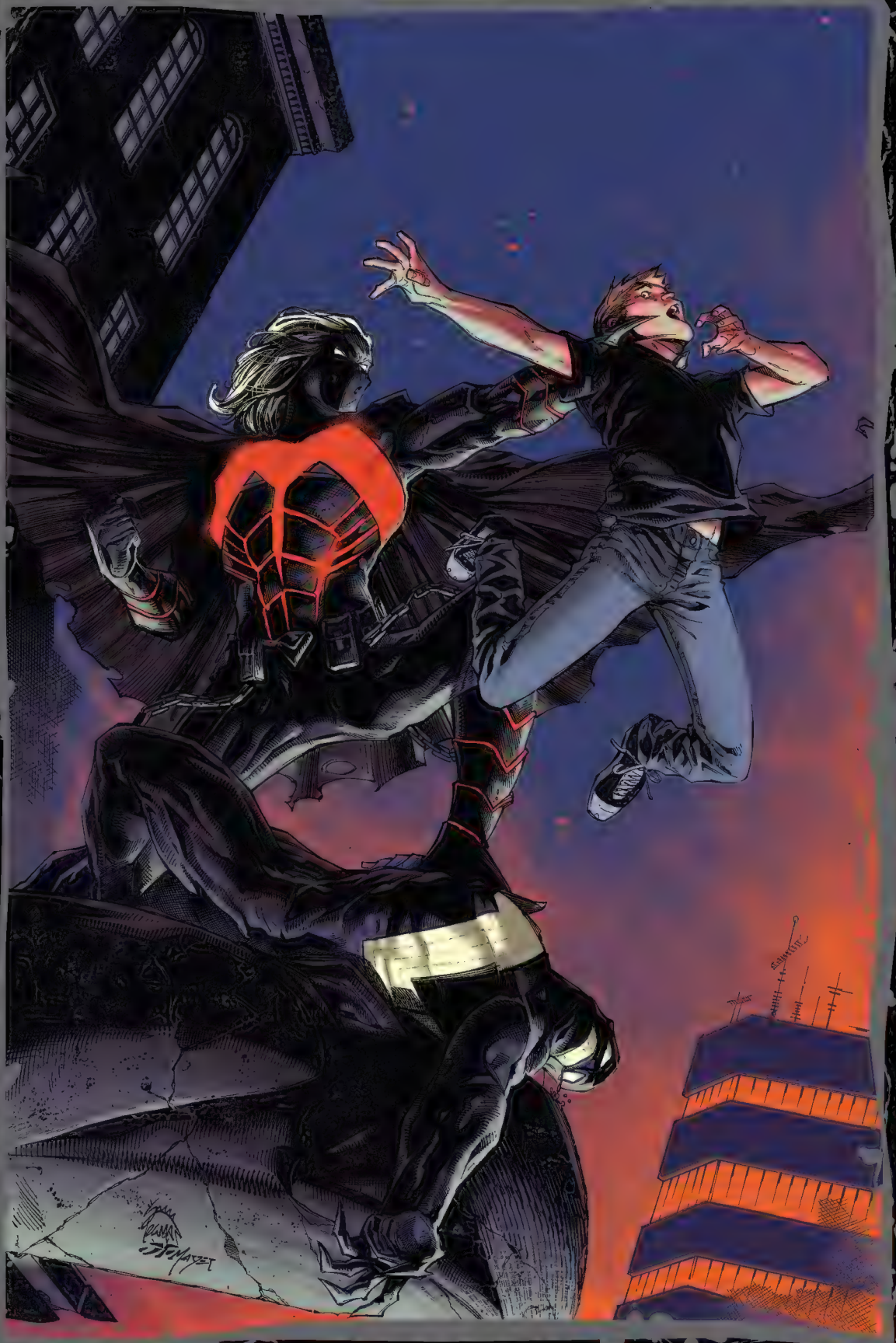
AND WHAT IS YOUR NAME, SON?!
DYLAN. DYLAN BROCK, SIR.

D-D-DYLAN?

WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON? WHY IS REED--
IS HE YOUR SON? DON'T LIE TO ME--IS HE YOURS?!
YES! NOW WILL YOU PLEASE TELL ME WHAT--
IT'S HIM! IN OUR WORLD, EDDIE...

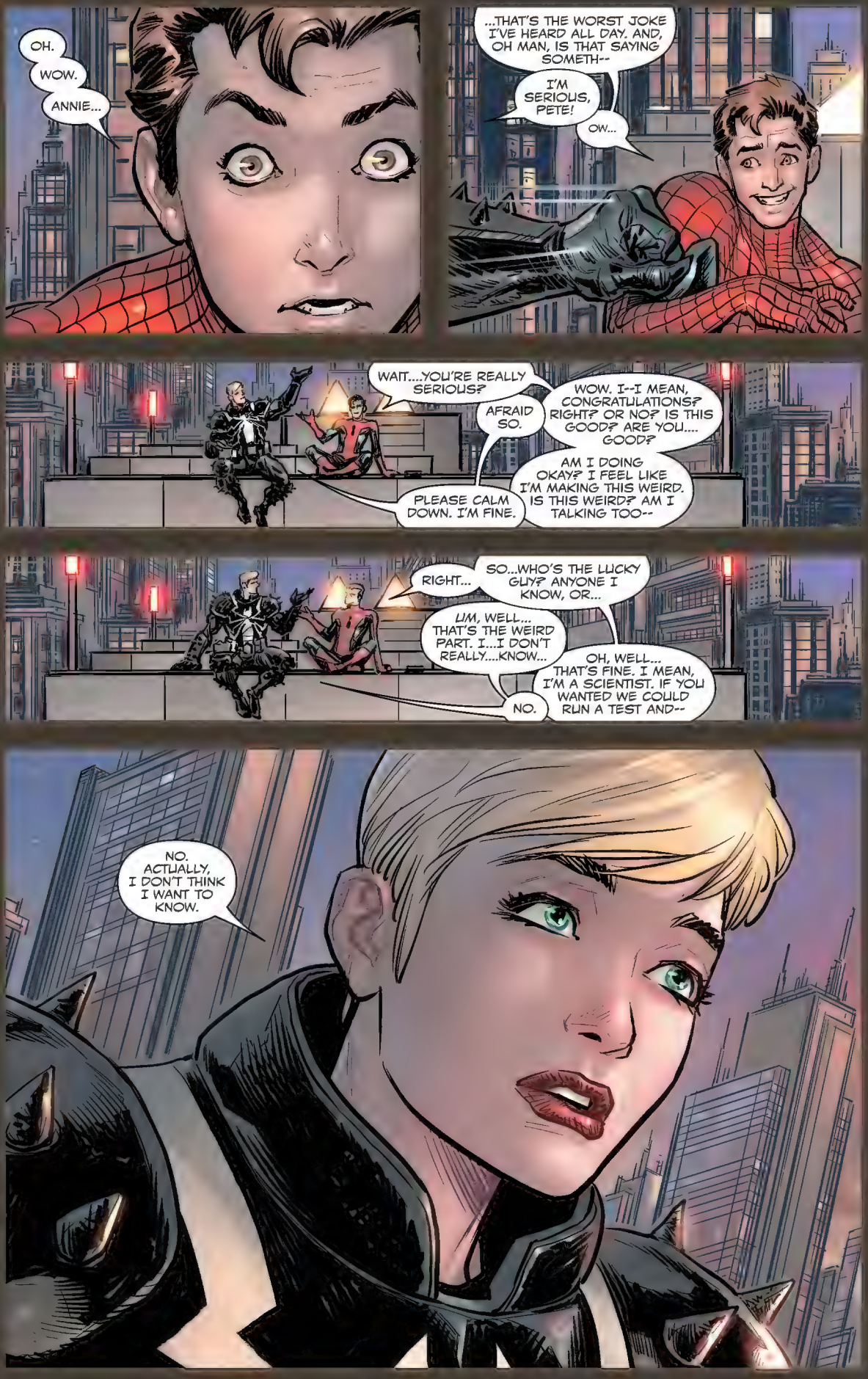
"...DYLAN IS CODEX!"

#29 VARIANT BY **RYAN STEGMAN** & **FRANK MARTIN**



A LONG TIME AGO...
"FINE, YOU WANT TO KNOW HOW WE GOT HERE?
"WELL, LET ME START AT THE BEGINNING...

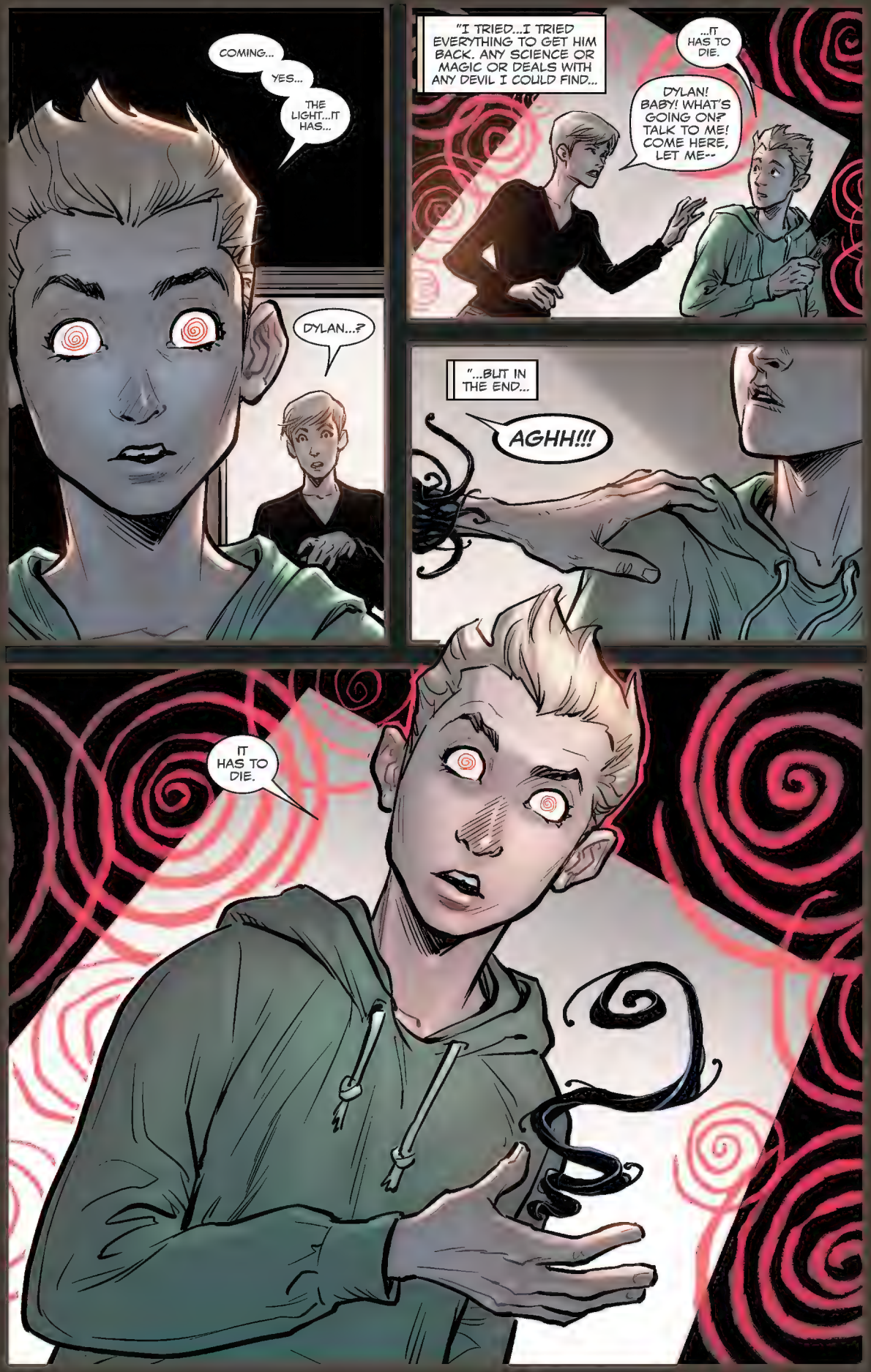
--I MEAN, I ALWAYS KNEW OTTO WAS A NERD, BUT REALLY? "OPERATION: OCTOPI WALL STREET"?
I MEAN, SURE...THERE'S A PART OF ME THAT APPRECIATES THE PUN GAME, BUT DUDE... READ THE ROOM, RIGHT?
HEHE... YEAH...
YOU OKAY, ANNIE? YOU USUALLY FAKE LAUGH AT MY JOKES A LITTLE MORE CONVINCINGLY THAN--
I'M PREGNANT, PETE.


OH.
WOW.
ANNIE...
...THAT'S THE WORST JOKE I'VE HEARD ALL DAY. AND, OH MAN, IS THAT SAYING SOMETH--
I'M SERIOUS, PETE!
OW...
WAIT....YOU'RE REALLY SERIOUS?
AFRAID SO.
WOW. I--I MEAN, CONGRATULATIONS? RIGHT? OR NO? IS THIS GOOD? ARE YOU.... GOOD?
AM I DOING OKAY? I FEEL LIKE I'M MAKING THIS WEIRD. IS THIS WEIRD? AM I TALKING TOO--
PLEASE CALM DOWN. I'M FINE.
RIGHT...
SO...WHO'S THE LUCKY GUY? ANYONE I KNOW, OR...
UM, WELL... THAT'S THE WEIRD PART. I...I DON'T REALLY....KNOW...
OH, WELL... THAT'S FINE. I MEAN, I'M A SCIENTIST. IF YOU WANTED WE COULD RUN A TEST AND--
NO.
NO. ACTUALLY, I DON'T THINK I WANT TO KNOW.

YOU'RE KINDA THE TOUGHEST AND SCARIEST PERSON I'VE EVER MET, SO I'M NOT DOUBTING THAT YOU CAN HANDLE THIS, BUT...AS SOMEONE WHO WAS RAISED BY A SINGLE PARENT...IT'S...WELL, IT CAN BE HARD, YOU KNOW?
AND-- I GUESS, I DON'T KNOW, I GUESS I'M JUST SAYING IF YOU EVER NEED ANY HELP, I'M...ALWAYS AROUND...IF YOU NEED IT.
PETE...
...SHUT UP.
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND...
I WON'T BE A SINGLE MOM. I'M NEVER ALONE.
DON'T WORRY.

WE'LL BE JUST FINE.
GOD, I HATE SYMBIOTE STUFF.

"YEARS PASSED...AND... YEAH, AT FIRST EVERYTHING WAS FINE.
HEY, BABY! MOMMY'S HOME!
PIZZA
"MY LITTLE DYLAN WAS JUST A SWEET LITTLE BOY...
AND GUESS WHAT? I STOPPED ON MY WAY HOME AND GOT YOU A LITTLE...
"BUT THEN...
SURPRISE...
"SOMETHING... STOLE HIM...


COMING...
YES...
THE LIGHT...IT HAS...
DYLAN...?
"I TRIED...I TRIED EVERYTHING TO GET HIM BACK. ANY SCIENCE OR MAGIC OR DEALS WITH ANY DEVIL I COULD FIND...
...IT HAS TO DIE.
DYLAN! BABY! WHAT'S GOING ON? TALK TO ME! COME HERE, LET ME--
"...BUT IN THE END...
AGHH!!!
IT HAS TO DIE.

"...WE LOST HIM.

"I LOST HIM.

"IT ALL HAPPENED SO FAST.

"REED AND THE OTHERS TRIED TO HELP HIM...TO ***FREE*** HIM...

"BUT IT WAS TOO LATE...

"USING THE PIECE OF THE SYMBIOTE HE TOOK FROM ME, HE WAS ABLE TO SPAWN HUNDREDS OF THEM.

"AND THEN THOUSANDS. AND THEN...THERE WERE MORE OF ***THEM*** THAN US...

"IN THE BEGINNING, HE SEEMED TO BE BONDING TO THEM. WEARING THE SYMBIOTES LIKE YOU AND I.

"BUT AS THE WAR WAGED ON AND HIS POWERS GREW, HE BEGAN TO SHED THEM. TO REJECT THEM...

"TO CONTROL THEM IN A WAY THAT I DIDN'T THINK WAS POSSIBLE.

"DYLAN BECAME A ***LIVING HIVE-MIND.*** ABLE TO CONTROL THE SYMBIOTES EVEN IF HE WASN'T BONDED TO THEM...

"IT WAS LIKE...HE BECAME THEIR GOD...

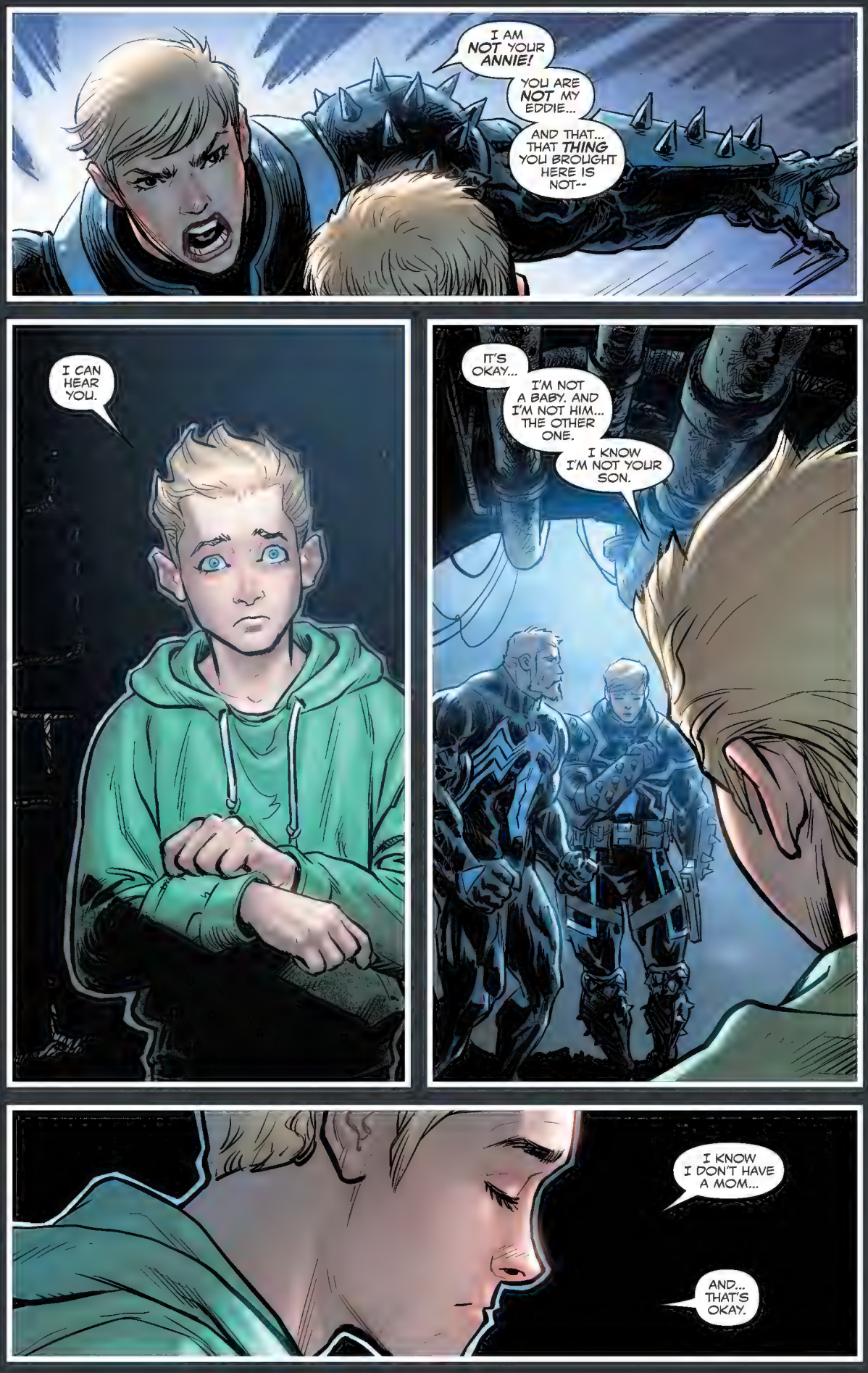
"AND TOGETHER...THEY SPREAD ACROSS THE PLANET...SMOTHERING WHOLE CONTINENTS...AND LEAVING NOTHING IN HIS WAKE BUT DARKNESS AND THE PEOPLE HE HAD ASSIMILATED INTO HIS HIVE...

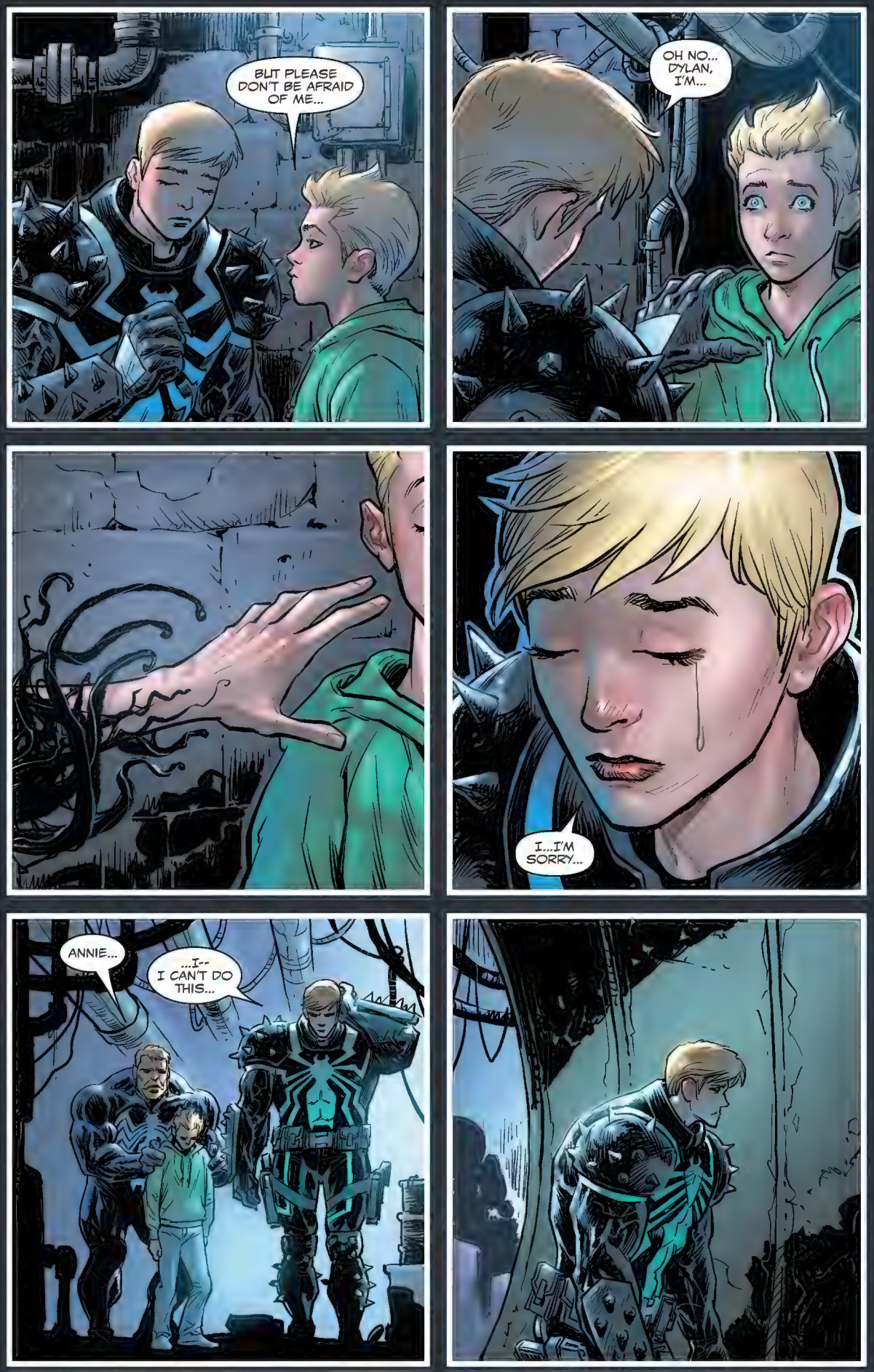
"NO ONE WAS PREPARED. NO ONE COULD STOP HIM.

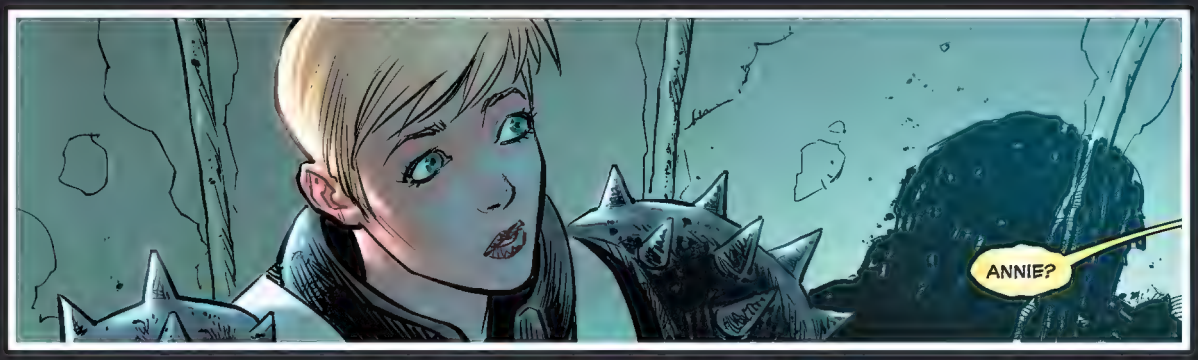
"HE DESTROYED THE WORLD, EDDIE...

"MY SON KILLED THE WORLD."

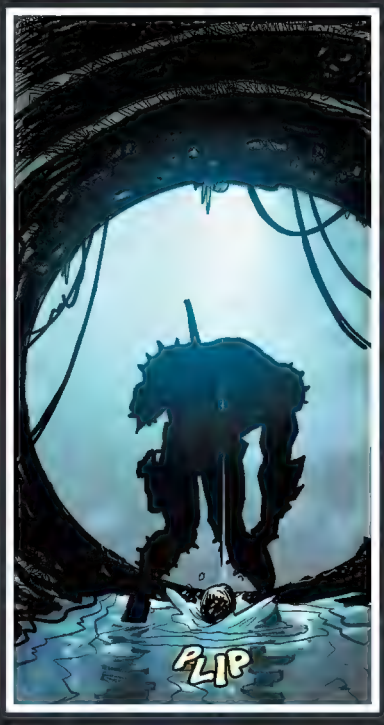
AND NOW WE'RE HERE.
ANNIE... I'M...SO--
I'M ASSUMING YOURS IS LIKE THAT TOO? YOUR...YOUR DYLAN?
I... I MEAN, NO... HE'S NOT...
EVIL? NOT WHAT I MEANT. AND THANKS FOR THE REMINDER.
DOES HE HAVE THE SAME POWERS? ABLE TO REMOTE PILOT THEM? ABLE TO SENSE THEM? HURT THEM, EVEN DESTROY THEM, WITH HIS MIND?
NO...
I MEAN, YES, HE CAN DO THOSE THINGS, BUT...HE'S NOT THE SAME.
MY DYLAN ISN'T ABLE TO BOND WITH SYMBIOTES AT ALL. HE'S NOT A DANGER TO YOU, ANNIE. I PROMISE. HE'S JUST A LITTLE--
DON'T TOUCH ME!
ANNIE, HEY, I'M--

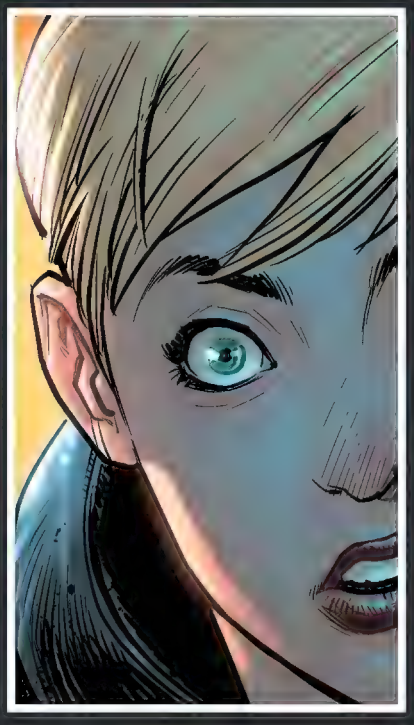

I AM NOT YOUR ANNIE!
YOU ARE NOT MY EDDIE...
AND THAT... THAT THING YOU BROUGHT HERE IS NOT--
I CAN HEAR YOU.
IT'S OKAY...
I'M NOT A BABY. AND I'M NOT HIM... THE OTHER ONE.
I KNOW I'M NOT YOUR SON.
I KNOW I DON'T HAVE A MOM...
AND... THAT'S OKAY.


BUT PLEASE DON'T BE AFRAID OF ME...
OH NO... DYLAN, I'M...
I...I'M SORRY...
ANNIE...
...I-- I CAN'T DO THIS...


ANNIE?

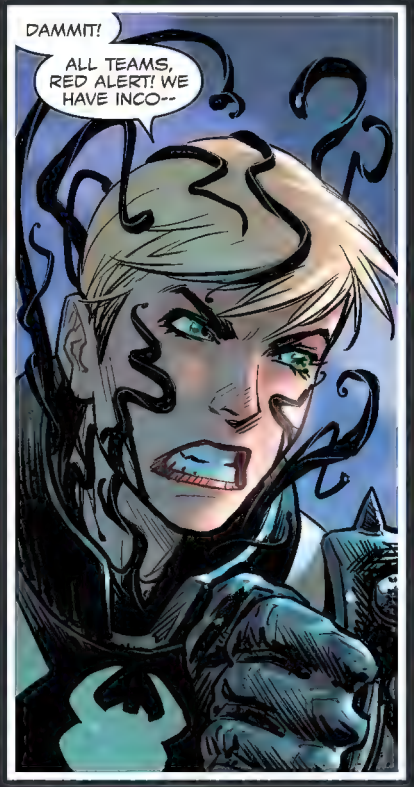
WADE?! OH, THANK--
YEAH, HEY, LISTEN...REAL QUICK?


PLIP



FLOP
FLOP
FLOP
FLOP

YOU GUYS NEED TO GET THE @#$$% OUTTA HERE.
WHAT? WADE, WHAT ARE YOU--
SHUT UP AND GET EVERYONE OUT OF HERE NOW! THEY TRACKED US! THEY SENT THIS--


DAMMIT!
ALL TEAMS, RED ALERT! WE HAVE INCO--

RAGGHH!!!

WHERE IS HE?!

AGH! EVERYONE, GET TO--

THE CHILD!

GAH!

PETER!

MOVE!

WAIT, THOSE ARE ELECTRICAL CURRENTS! NO ONE CAN SURVIVE THAT AMOUNT OF ENERGY COURSING--

OH...

...WE'RE COUNTING ON IT!

Bwwwaaaaahhhh

GET.
OFF.
OF.
MY.
WIFE!

DYLAN!!!
NOW.
...NO...
AGHHH!

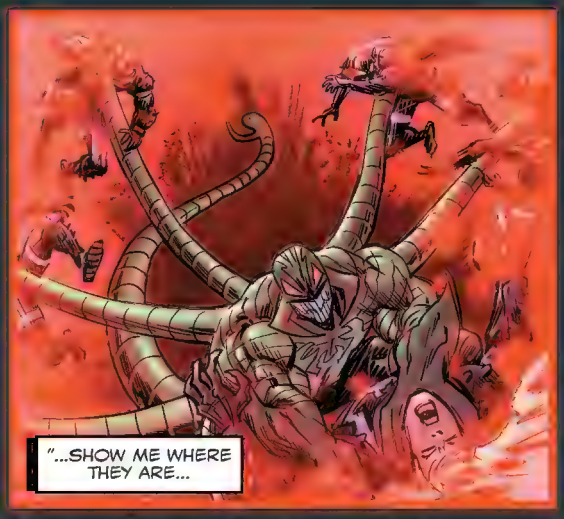
IT'S OKAY. HEY, I GOTCHA... ARE YOU--
I'M OKAY...
EDDIE...
...WHO IS THIS MAN?
MAC GARGAN.
THE SCORPION.
YOU... I'LL KILL YOU. I'LL NEVER--
OR IS IT VIRUS NOW? HUH?
THAT WAS YOU! MY OTHER CAN SENSE IT! THAT WAS YOU IN THAT RIDICULOUS SUIT!
THIS IS YOUR FAULT! YOU--

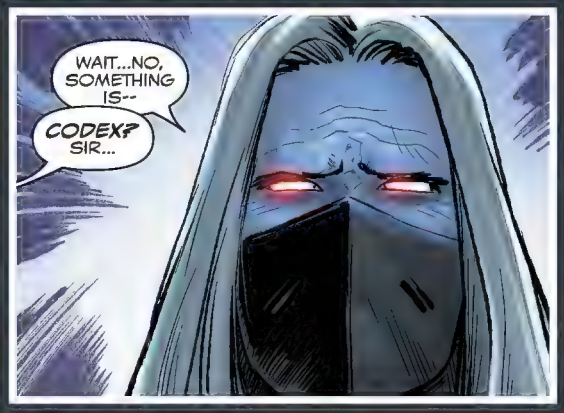
YOU PARALYZED ME!
...
...WHAT?
CARNAGE ALMOST RIPPED MY SPINE OUT, AND YOU JUST LEFT--
YOU WERE GOING TO LEAVE A CHILD TO DIE!!!
OR DID YOU FORGET THAT PART?
YOU JUST THREW ME AT HIM!
YOU... JUST...
YOU...YOU CAN'T WALK AWAY FROM THAT...
IT'S NOT FAIR...
NO.
NO. I CAN'T.
SO, I'M GOING TO MAKE YOU A DEAL.
W-WHY WOULD YOU DO THAT...
BECAUSE THAT SYMBIOTE MY SON JUST KILLED...
...YOU GOT IT FROM CODEX. WE CAN SMELL IT. WHICH MEANS YOU KNOW WHERE HE IS...

...SO NOW YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE US TO HIM.

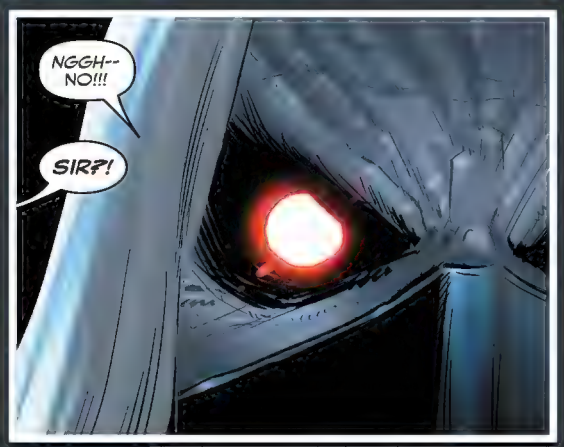
#30 VARIANT BY **AARON KUDER** & **FRANK MARTIN**

EARTH-1051.
NOW.
I CAN FEEL YOU OUT THERE, GARGAN.
SLITHERING AROUND.... UNDERNEATH US...
NOW...
...GIVE ME YOUR EYES...


"...SHOW ME WHERE THEY ARE...

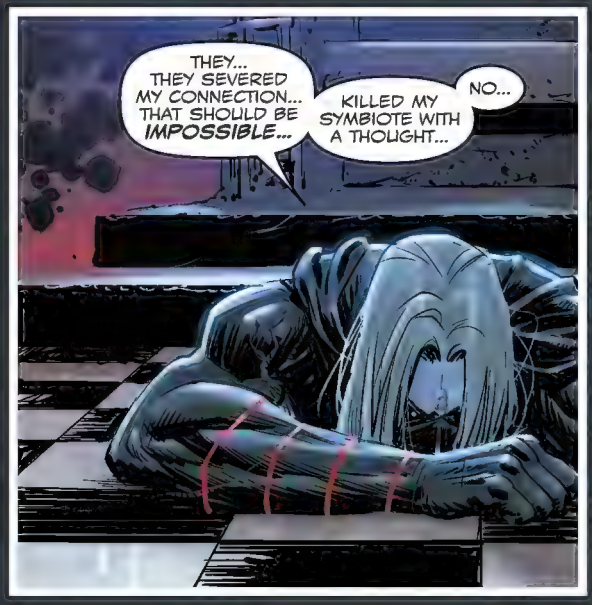

WAIT...NO, SOMETHING IS--
CODEX? SIR...

AAGHH!!!


NGGH-- NO!!!
SIR?!

BOOM

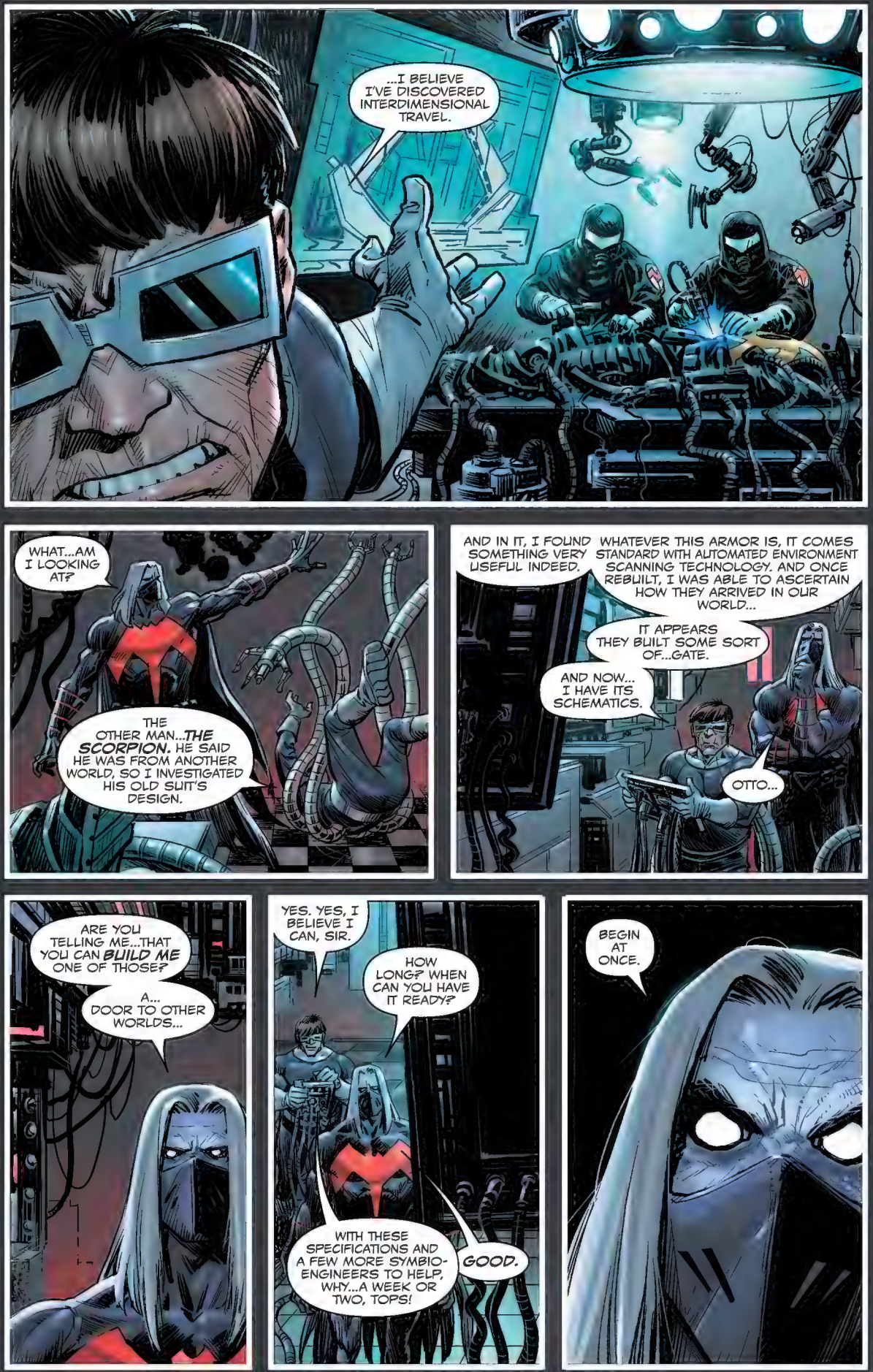
NOOOO!!!


THEY... THEY SEVERED MY CONNECTION... THAT SHOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE...
KILLED MY SYMBIOTE WITH A THOUGHT...
NO...

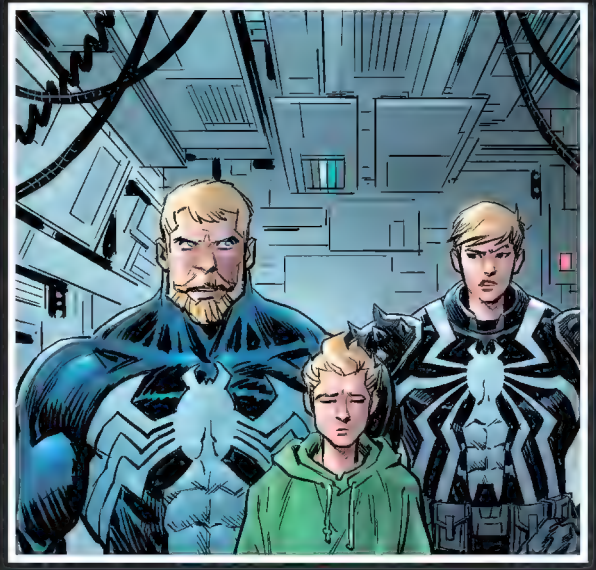
HE'S... LIKE ME...
UM...UM, SIR?

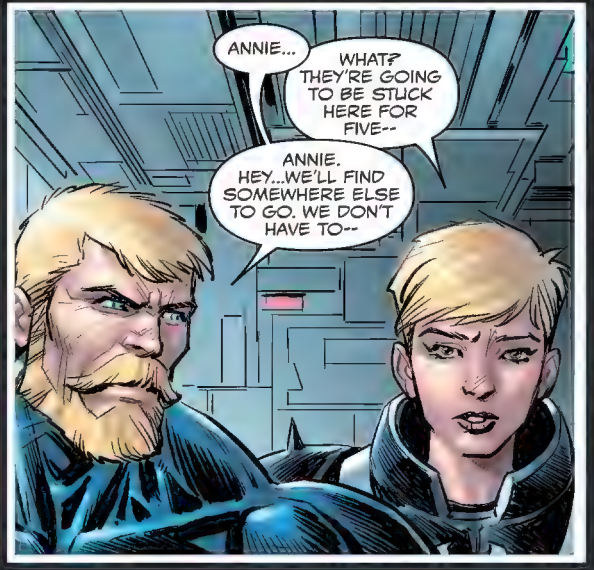
WHAT DO YOU WANT, OTTO?
UM, SIR. IF IT'S NOT TOO MUCH TROUBLE...
"TROUBLE"? DO YOU...

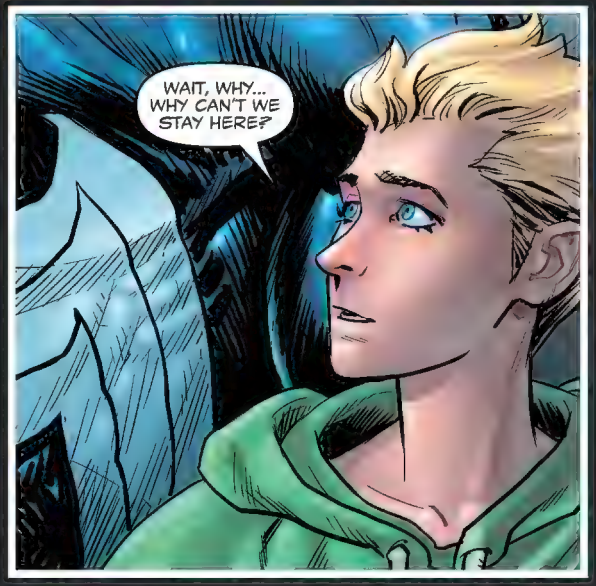
WHAT?! WHAT IS SO IMPORTANT THAT YOU HAVE TO SHOW ME, OTTO?! WHAT COULD BE SO IMPORTANT THAT YOU NEED TO INTERRUPT ME?!
SIR... UM...

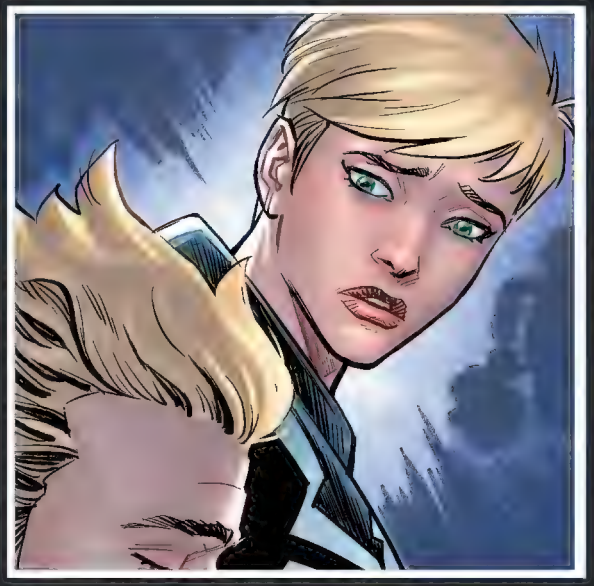

...I BELIEVE I'VE DISCOVERED INTERDIMENSIONAL TRAVEL.
WHAT...AM I LOOKING AT?
THE OTHER MAN...THE SCORPION. HE SAID HE WAS FROM ANOTHER WORLD, SO I INVESTIGATED HIS OLD SUIT'S DESIGN.
AND IN IT, I FOUND SOMETHING VERY USEFUL INDEED.
WHATEVER THIS ARMOR IS, IT COMES STANDARD WITH AUTOMATED ENVIRONMENT SCANNING TECHNOLOGY. AND ONCE REBUILT, I WAS ABLE TO ASCERTAIN HOW THEY ARRIVED IN OUR WORLD...
IT APPEARS THEY BUILT SOME SORT OF...GATE.
AND NOW... I HAVE ITS SCHEMATICS.
OTTO...
ARE YOU TELLING ME...THAT YOU CAN BUILD ME ONE OF THOSE?
A... DOOR TO OTHER WORLDS...
YES, YES, I BELIEVE I CAN, SIR.
HOW LONG? WHEN CAN YOU HAVE IT READY?
WITH THESE SPECIFICATIONS AND A FEW MORE SYMBIO-ENGINEERS TO HELP, WHY...A WEEK OR TWO, TOPS!
GOOD.
BEGIN AT ONCE.

REED'S UNDERGROUND LABORATORY. THE RESISTANCE.
AH, SO AS I WAS...UM, SAYING...AFTER TALKING WITH OUR NEW FRIEND MAC HERE, THE ARMOR HE WAS WEARING CAME FROM AN, UM...UH...ALTERNATE WORLD'S VERSION OF A WAR MACHINE MARK III DESIGNED BY THEIR WORLD'S TONY STARK.
(GOD, I MISS ANTHONY.)
ANYWAY, THIS IS IT! THE GOOD NEWS! YOU SEE, THAT ARMOR COMES STANDARD WITH AUTOMATED ENVIRONMENT AND TECHNOLOGY SCANNING EQUIPMENT FOR THE PURPOSES OF ENGAGING MULTIPLE TARGETS AT ONCE.
SO IF I CAN GET MY...MY... WHAT ARE THEY... YES--HANDS ON THAT TRACKING UNIT, THEN, WELL...
YOU'RE SAYING YOU CAN BUILD ONE OF THOSE...GATE THINGS THAT EDDIE USED TO GET HERE?
OH, YES. I'M QUITE SURE.
OKAY, ASSUMING WE CAN EVEN GET THIS THING...HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE YOU TO BUILD THIS GATE?
WELL...WITH THE LIMITED RESOURCES ON HAND...
I CAN CONFIDENTLY SAY FOUR...MAYBE FIVE YEARS.
TOPS!



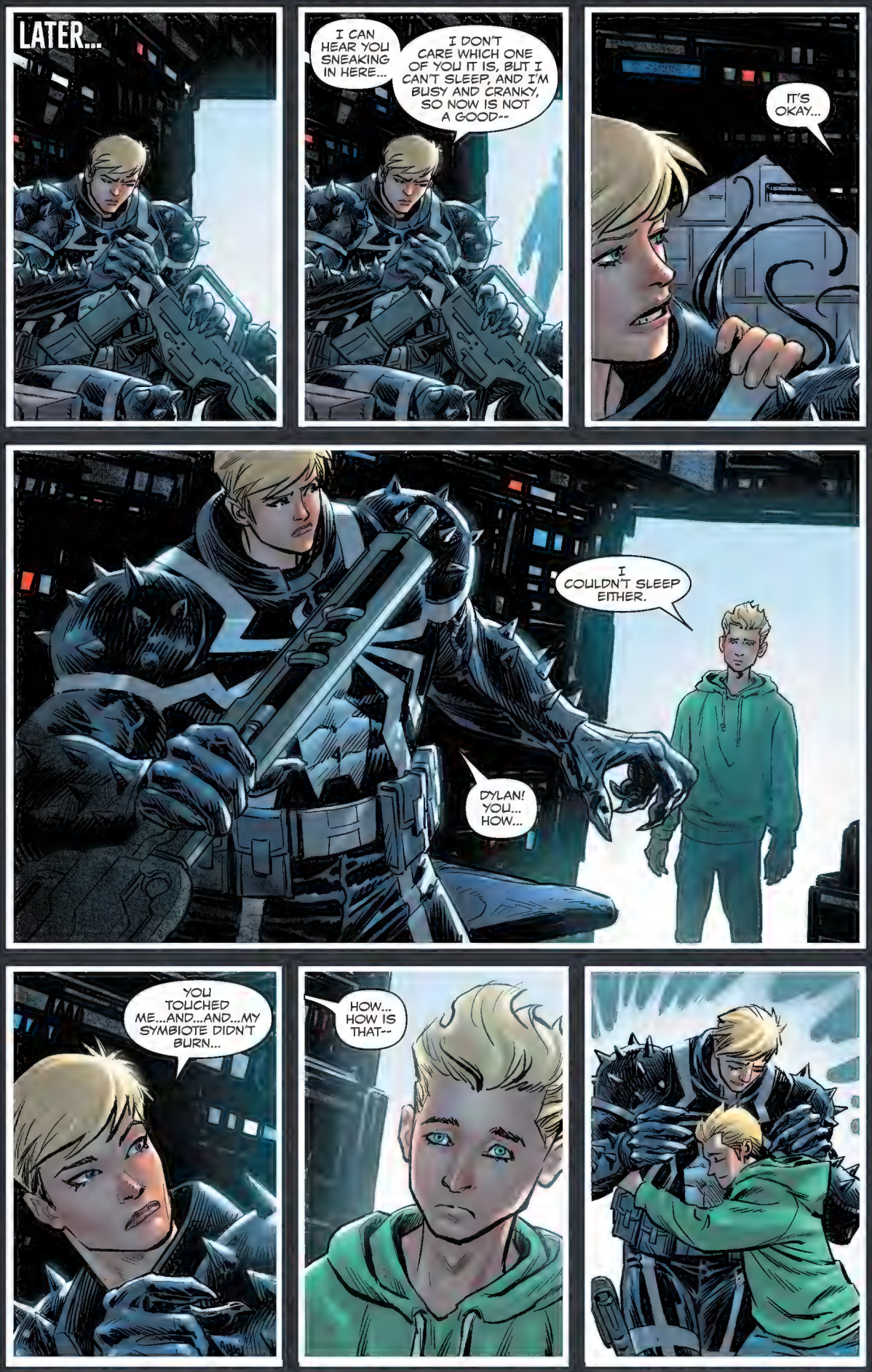

ANNIE...
WHAT? THEY'RE GOING TO BE STUCK HERE FOR FIVE--
ANNIE. HEY...WE'LL FIND SOMEWHERE ELSE TO GO. WE DON'T HAVE TO--

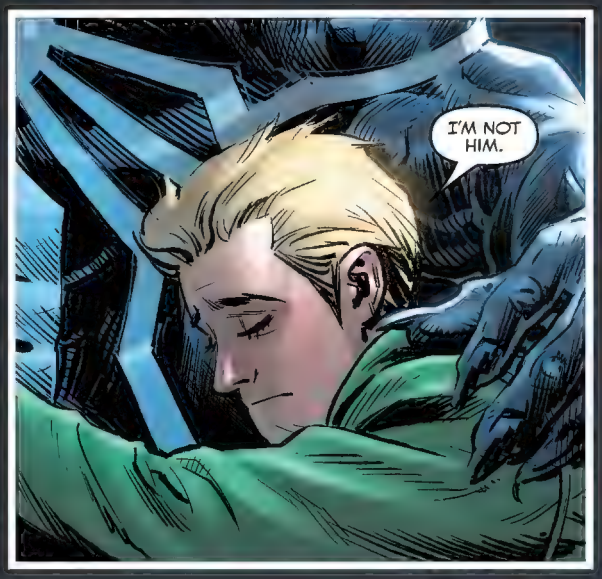

WAIT, WHY... WHY CAN'T WE STAY HERE?



OKAY, EVERYONE. MEETING ADJOURNED.
NONE OF US HAVE SLEPT IN DAYS. LET'S REGROUP IN THE MORNING. WE'LL NEED A PLAN TO GET THAT EQUIPMENT...
REMEMBER, THAT BASE OF HIS IS CRAWLING WITH AVENGERS STILL...WE'LL NEED A MIRACLE TO GET THROUGH THEM.

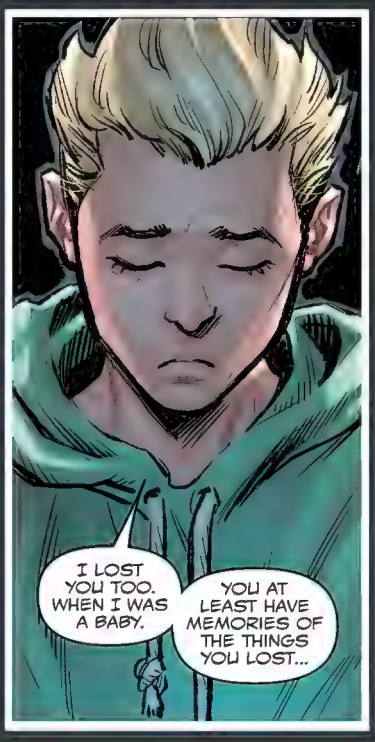
....AND THEN ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS TAKE DOWN MY SON.

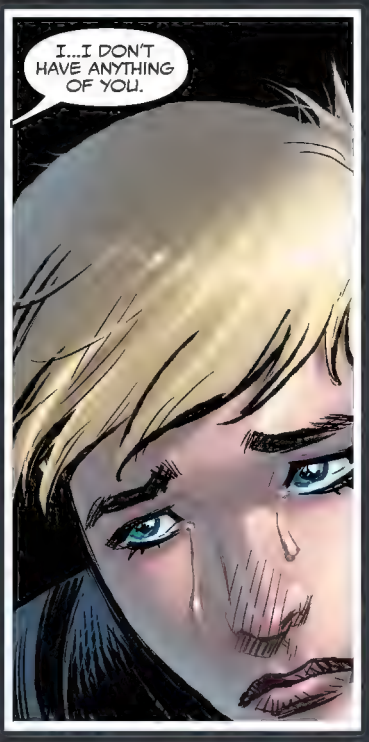

LATER...
I CAN HEAR YOU SNEAKING IN HERE...
I DON'T CARE WHICH ONE OF YOU IT IS, BUT I CAN'T SLEEP, AND I'M BUSY AND CRANKY, SO NOW IS NOT A GOOD--
IT'S OKAY...
I COULDN'T SLEEP EITHER.
DYLAN! YOU... HOW...
YOU TOUCHED ME...AND...AND...MY SYMBIOTE DIDN'T BURN...
HOW... HOW IS THAT--

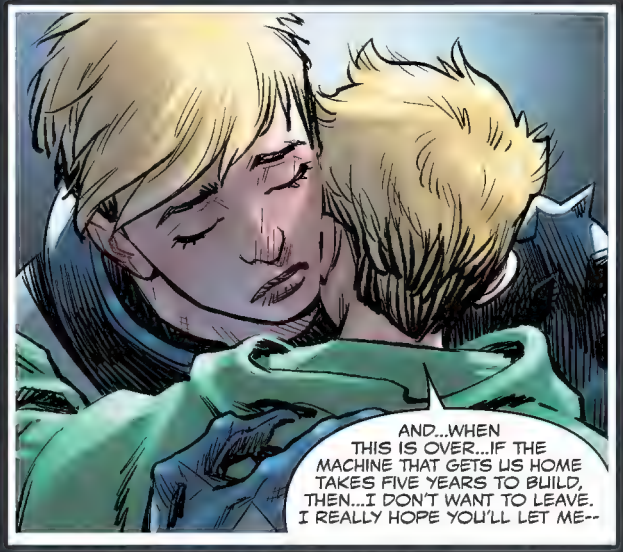

I'M NOT HIM.

DYLAN...I... I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO--
I'M NOT PART OF HIS HIVE. NEITHER IS MY DAD. AND MY DAD'S SYMBIOTE ISN'T HURT BY MY TOUCH EITHER, SO I FIGURED...

I FIGURED IT WOULD BE THE SAME FOR MY...WELL, FOR YOU TOO. THAT... MAYBE IT...IT COULD HELP SOMEHOW OR...
THAT'S... THAT'S INCREDIBLE. REALLY. BUT--
I KNOW IT'S WEIRD FOR YOU TO BE AROUND ME AFTER YOU LOST YOUR DYLAN. TO SEE ME, TO HAVE ME HERE...BUT...YOU KNOW...


I LOST YOU TOO. WHEN I WAS A BABY.
YOU AT LEAST HAVE MEMORIES OF THE THINGS YOU LOST...


I...I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING OF YOU.


AND...WHEN THIS IS OVER...IF THE MACHINE THAT GETS US HOME TAKES FIVE YEARS TO BUILD, THEN...I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE. I REALLY HOPE YOU'LL LET ME--

EDDIE.
GET UP.
WH-WHAT'S...
IT'S TIME TO GO TO WORK.
WHAT? NOW? I THOUGHT... WHAT ABOUT... CODEX? DO WE HAVE A PLAN?
YEAH.
WE'RE GONNA WIN.

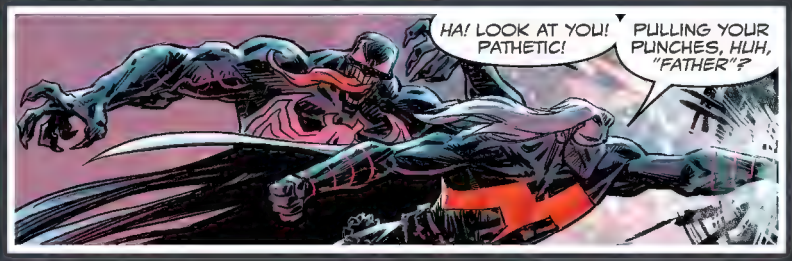
OCTAVIUS... WHAT...WHAT IS ALL OF THIS?
OH, YES! INSIDE OF MAC GARGAN'S VIRUS ARMOR, THERE WAS A CONSIDERABLE--ONE COULD ALMOST SAY OBSESSIVE-- AMOUNT OF RESEARCH ON HIS TARGET...THE ONE HE CALLED VENOM.
THEIR WORLD'S VERSION OF...WELL...
MY FATHER.
HE'S HERE. IN OUR WORLD...BUT NOT OF MY HIVE... I CANNOT...
I CANNOT FIND HIM.
THIS OTHER WORLD THOUGH... IT SEEMS THEY HAVE A CLOSER CONNECTION TO THE...
...TO THE VOICE THAT CALLS TO ME. SPEAKS TO ME TO SAVE IT...
IT'S ALMOST AS IF...IN THEIR WORLD...THIS...VOICE... THIS GREAT BLACK GOD IS...
BWAAAM-BWAAM
...COMING.
SECURITY BREACH! SECURITY BREACH!
ENEMIES INBOUND, SIR. LOOKS TO BE ONE CRAFT. UNMANNED... NO LIFE-FORMS ABOARD. WHY WOULD THEY...
AH. I SEE.
BRACE FOR IMPACT, OTTO.
THE SHIP IS NOT UNMANNED... IN FACT...

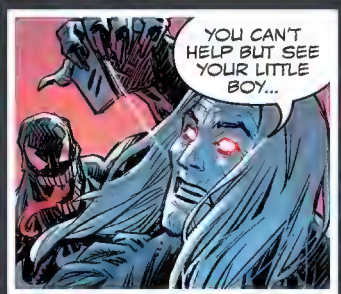
"...I BELIEVE DADDY'S HOME."
DOOM

ALL RIGHT, MAGGOTS! AGENT BROCK OPENED CODEX'S FRONT DOOR FOR US! WHY DON'T WE SHOW OURSELVES IN AND MAKE OURSELVES AT HOME?
WILSON, PARKER, KASADY, ON ME!
BENTON, GUARD REED! REED, DON'T WANDER OFF AND DON'T DIE!
GARGAN, FIND THAT ARMOR AND DON'T BE A @#$%!
GO! GO! GO!!!

YOU--YOU WILL BOW TO--
WAIT--NO! YOUR SYMBIOTE, IT WON'T--
WON'T OBEY? YEAH, WE AIN'T FROM AROUND HERE. YOU CAN'T CONTROL US, KID!

IT'S YOU, ISN'T IT?!
EDDIE BROCK!!! I'VE HEARD SO MUCH ABOUT YOU...


HA! LOOK AT YOU! PATHETIC!
PULLING YOUR PUNCHES, HUH, "FATHER"?


YOU CAN'T HELP BUT SEE YOUR LITTLE BOY...

...WHEN WHAT YOU FACE IS A GOD!

"AND ALL WHO ARE FAITHFUL TO HIM!"

AVENGERS!

ASSEMBLE!!!

AGH! KEEP PUSHING! KEEP DIGGING, DAMMIT!!!

WAIT!

WHO HAS EYES ON GARGAN?!

AGH!!!

KRAK

COME ON AND FIGHT ME, OLD MAN!

STOP BEING SO WEAK!

COME ON, EDDIE!

NOW!!!

N-NO... WHAT ARE YOU--

YOU'RE RIGHT...

I CAN'T FIGHT YOU. I WON'T...

YOU REMIND ME TOO MUCH OF MY BOY. OF HOW I'VE FAILED HIM.

YOU...THIS WORLD...IT'S EVERYTHING I'VE TRIED TO PROTECT HIM FROM. YOU'RE EVERY NIGHTMARE I'VE EVER HAD ABOUT MY SON...

SO NO, DYLAN. I WON'T FIGHT YOU...

...BUT MY SYMBIOTE WILL.

NO! YOU CAN'T!

THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE! I CAN'T BOND WITH--

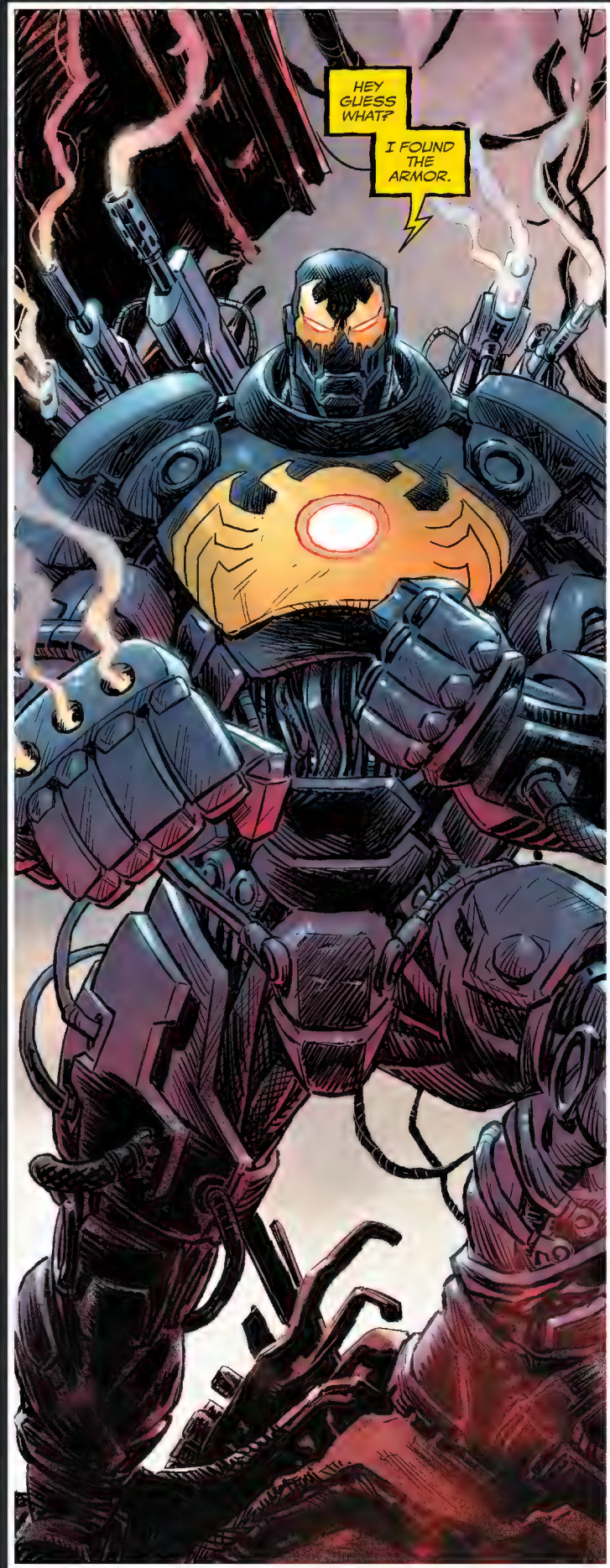
HELLO, DYLAN. PLEASE... WE DO NOT WANT TO HURT YOU.

N-NOOO!!!

FWASSH

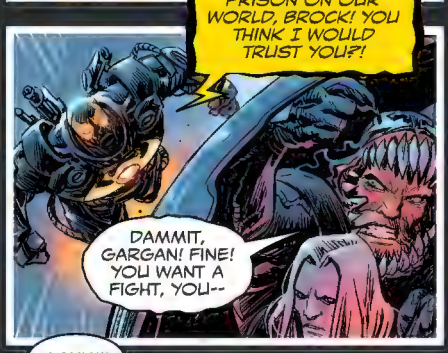
WE WAN'T TO SHOW YOU A WORLD WH-- AGHHH!!!!

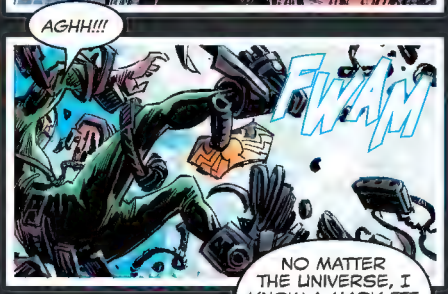
AGH!

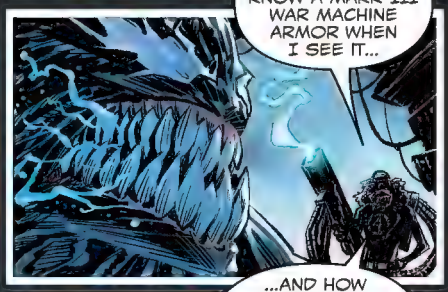

HEY GUESS WHAT?
I FOUND THE ARMOR.

G-GARGAN, WE HAD A DEAL.
PLEASE... LET ME... GO...

YEAH, WELL... SCORPION AND THE FROG AND ALL THAT, HUH?


YOU WERE ALWAYS GOING TO PUT ME IN PRISON ON OUR WORLD, BROCK! YOU THINK I WOULD TRUST YOU?!
DAMMIT, GARGAN! FINE! YOU WANT A FIGHT, YOU--


AGHH!!!
FWAM


NO MATTER THE UNIVERSE, I KNOW A MARK III WAR MACHINE ARMOR WHEN I SEE IT...

...AND HOW TO SHUT ONE DOWN WITH A LOCALIZED REACTOR E.M.P. YOU SEE, IN THIS WORLD, AND I SUPPOSE ANY OTHER...

...TONY STARK WAS A FRIEND OF MINE.
COME HERE, DYLAN. IT'S OKAY...
EDDIE... IT'S TIME...
I AM SORRY. I MUST CONTROL YOU FOR A MOMENT.
PLEASE BE CALM. I DO NOT WISH TO HURT YOU.
N-NO! PLEASE! STOP... STOP IT!!!
IT'S OKAY.... WE'RE NOT GOING TO HURT YOU...
M-MOM? WHAT ARE YOU...
WHO IS THIS? WHAT IS--
HEY...
IT'S OKAY...
WE JUST WANT...
"...TO GIVE YOU SOMETHING."
AGHHHH!!!

"...WE WANT TO GIVE YOU A LIFE."
"A SHARED LIFE. MY MEMORIES AND YOUR MOTHER'S...
"...TOGETHER.
"A LIFE THAT NONE OF US HAS EVER KNOWN.
"YOU SEE, SON? THIS...
"..THIS IS IT.
"THIS IS HOW WE WIN.
"HOW WE BEAT THE DARKNESS THAT WE HAVE GIVEN YOU...
"TOGETHER.
"WE BEAT IT TOGETHER.
"BECAUSE... WE'RE STRONGER...
AGH!
DYLAN!
I GOT HIM! DID...DID IT WORK?
...WHEN WE AREN'T ALONE.
YEAH...

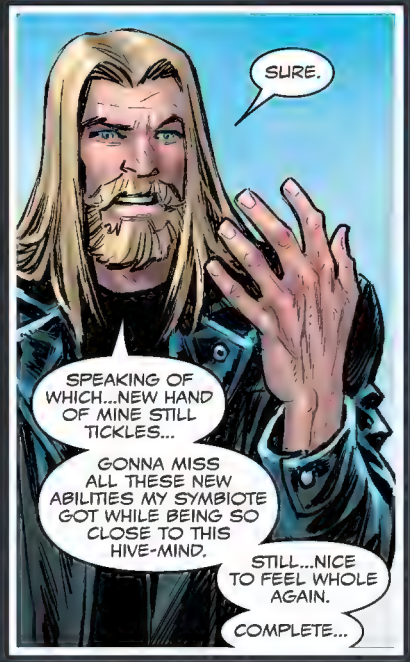
"I THINK SO...
"I THINK WE GOT HIM."
I THINK WE GOT HIM BACK.
...M-MOM...?
...YOU...WERE SUPPOSED TO BRING... HOME... DINNER...
DYLAN? BABY?! WAKE UP! NO, I'M HERE! I'M--
I'VE GOT IT! AHA!!! WE'VE DONE IT! WE CAN RETURN YOU ALL...
"...HOME."
I'M HERE NOW.

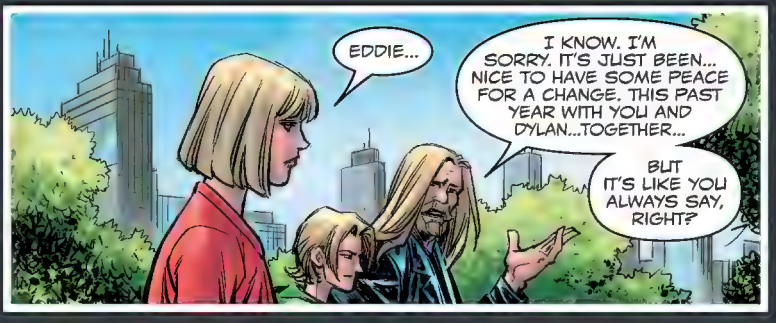
ONE YEAR LATER...

--PROGRESS ON ANYTHING? THE DOCTORS HAVE ANY NEW--
NO CHANGE. THEY SAID THE DAMAGE DONE TO HIM COULD TAKE YEARS FOR HIM TO RECOVER FROM. THAT THING...THAT... KNULL THING YOU TOLD US ALL ABOUT...
IT HAD ITS CLAWS IN HIM DEEP.

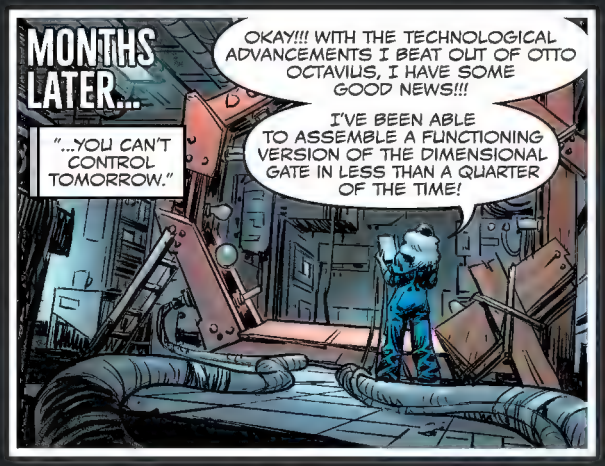
BUT HE'S ALIVE. THAT'S ALL I CARE ABOUT. COMA OR NOT...
...MY BOY IS HOME.

AND THE WORLD...KEEPS SPINNING.
AND GARGAN'S BEHIND BARS. WHICH, I MEAN, YEAH...HE WAS RIGHT ABOUT. I WAS ALWAYS GOING TO TURN HIM IN. HE JUST GOT THE DIMENSION WRONG...
WE'LL HANDLE HIM. WHO KNOWS, MAYBE HE'LL SEE THE LIGHT AND HELP US ON THE ROAD TO SOMETHING RESEMBLING NORMAL...


SURE.
SPEAKING OF WHICH...NEW HAND OF MINE STILL TICKLES...
GONNA MISS ALL THESE NEW ABILITIES MY SYMBIOTE GOT WHILE BEING SO CLOSE TO THIS HIVE-MIND.
STILL...NICE TO FEEL WHOLE AGAIN.
COMPLETE...

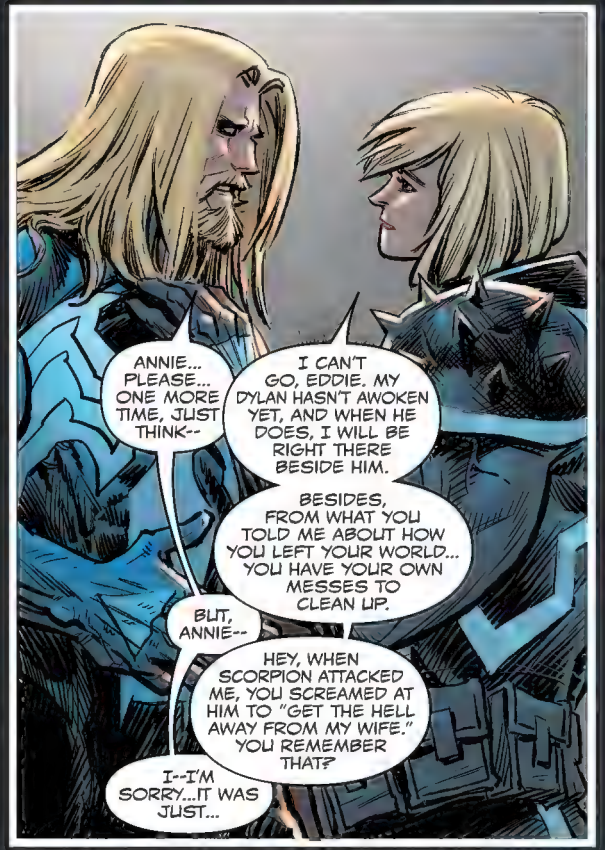

EDDIE...
I KNOW. I'M SORRY. IT'S JUST BEEN... NICE TO HAVE SOME PEACE FOR A CHANGE. THIS PAST YEAR WITH YOU AND DYLAN...TOGETHER...
BUT IT'S LIKE YOU ALWAYS SAY, RIGHT?

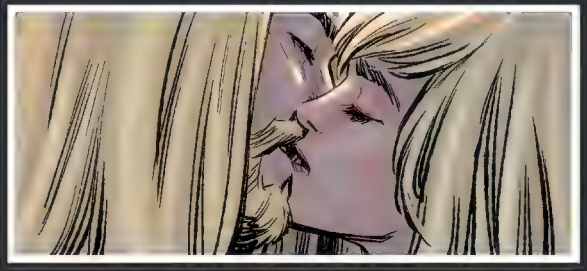
JUST LIVE IN THE MOMENT...

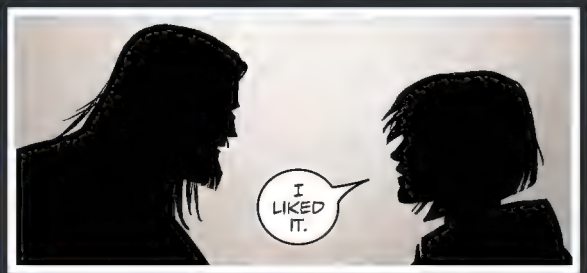

MONTHS LATER...
"...YOU CAN'T CONTROL TOMORROW."
OKAY!!! WITH THE TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS I BEAT OUT OF OTTO OCTAVIUS, I HAVE SOME GOOD NEWS!!!
I'VE BEEN ABLE TO ASSEMBLE A FUNCTIONING VERSION OF THE DIMENSIONAL GATE IN LESS THAN A QUARTER OF THE TIME!

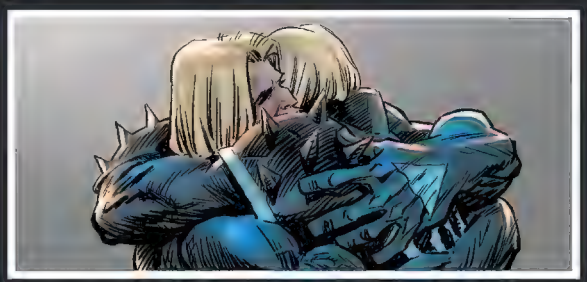
NOW, THE MACHINE IS QUITE SOUND. BUT I AM ETHICALLY BOUND TO TELL YOU THAT I AM LEGALLY INSANE, SO HONESTLY, WHO KNOWS! HAHA.
ANYWAY, PLEASE STEP FORWARD...

...IT'S TIME YOU WERE ON YOUR WAY!


ANNIE... PLEASE... ONE MORE TIME, JUST THINK--
I CAN'T GO, EDDIE. MY DYLAN HASN'T AWOKEN YET, AND WHEN HE DOES, I WILL BE RIGHT THERE BESIDE HIM.
BESIDES, FROM WHAT YOU TOLD ME ABOUT HOW YOU LEFT YOUR WORLD... YOU HAVE YOUR OWN MESSES TO CLEAN UP.
BUT, ANNIE--
HEY, WHEN SCORPION ATTACKED ME, YOU SCREAMED AT HIM TO "GET THE HELL AWAY FROM MY WIFE." YOU REMEMBER THAT?
I--I'M SORRY...IT WAS JUST...



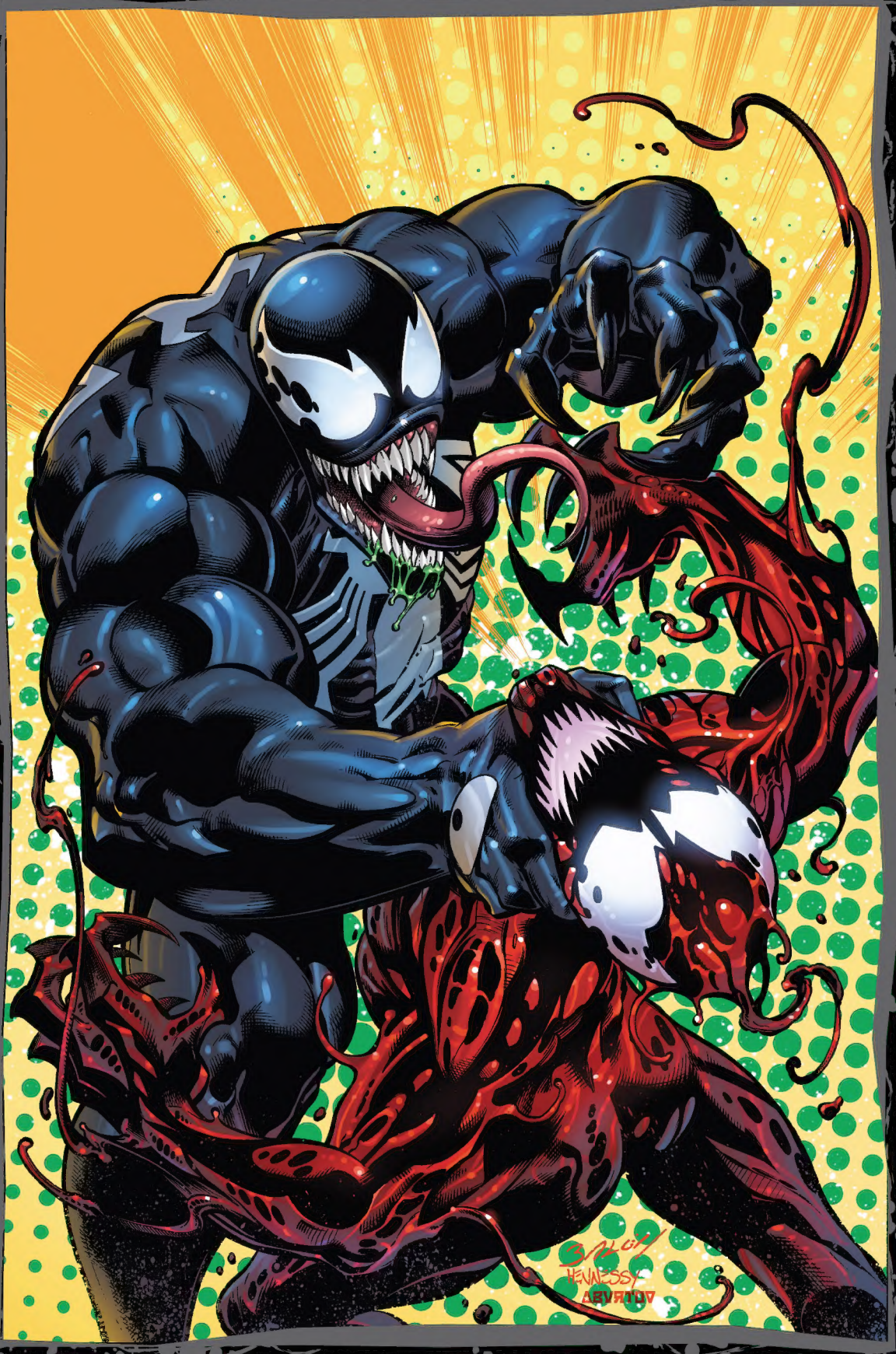

I LIKED IT.



TAKE CARE OF HIM, OKAY? AND IF YOU HEAR VOICES... VOICES CALLING YOU AWAY....
...YOU REMEMBER MINE. PROMISE?
PROMISE.
GOODBYE, ANNIE...MAYBE IN ANOTHER WORLD...
MAYBE THEN, EDDIE.
PRIME EARTH.
DAD...ARE... ARE WE HOME? DID WE DO IT...
YEAH... YEAH, SON...WE'RE HOME...
BUT...

TO BE CONTINUED IN

KING IN BLACK



#26 VARIANT BY **MARK BAGLEY**, **ANDREW HENNESSY** & **JESUS ABURTOV**

#27 VARIANT BY **RYAN STEGMAN** & **FRANK MARTIN**

#30 VARIANT BY **RYAN STEGMAN** & **FRANK MARTIN**

#28 SKETCH VARIANT BY
**RYAN STEGMAN**

#29 SKETCH VARIANT BY
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*"This book continues to go in new and interesting directions that are still just as creepy as ever."*
– Horror DNA

# A DANGEROUS ARMORED FOE NAMED VIRUS ERUPTS INTO VENOM'S LIFE!

***HE THREATENS TO RIP AWAY EVERYTHING EDDIE BROCK HOLDS DEAR.*** His son, his symbiote – even himself! But as their battle spirals out of control, reality itself escapes Venom's grasp – and he finds himself somewhere beyond! As if one new threat weren't bad enough, an entirely different foe rears its monstrous head as Eddie and Dylan try to make their way through a different – and highly dangerous – world. Thankfully, they enlist the help of new allies, some of whom have familiar faces – and one of whom Eddie may never want to leave! But as the full horrors of their strange surroundings and the nightmarish Codex become clear, Venom will soon have to make an impossible choice!

COLLECTING ***VENOM (2018) #26-30*** AND MATERIAL FROM ***FREE COMIC BOOK DAY 2020 (SPIDER-MAN/VENOM)*** – BY DONNY CATES, IBAN COELLO, JUAN GEDEON, LUKE ROSS, RYAN STEGMAN, JP MAYER, JESUS ABURTOV AND FRANK MARTIN.

MARVEL